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"WE'RE NOT SERIOUS" CULINA MAY QUIT

by Bruce Campbell

SPEAKING from his west Sydney home Branko Culina has hinted that he may quit the game. Clearly emotionally drained after his side's last gasp elimination from the Top 6 series against Adelaide City, Culina has also hit out at factions within the game which want to see him removed from his position as Head Coach at Sydney Olympic.

"They don't understand football," he said.

"Maybe at the end of the day we didn't achieve a Top Six place but we have a far better structure in place at Olympic than was there before.

"We lost Jason (Culina) and Brett (Emerton) to the Young Socceroos in the last few weeks of the NSL and then also George Bouhoutsos and Milan Blagojevic to injury.

"How can you replace almost half of your team - and your best players? If they feel that I should go then so be it, but it isn't fair to have a go at Frank Arok (the club's technical director) because he wasn't involved in team selections."

Despite the reassurance of chairman Nick Politis, and the apparent security of the second in a two year contract, Culina is aware that his job is on the line. A scathing attack in a Sydney-based Greek language paper last week called for his

head and quoted a stakeholder as saying that he and Arok should both resign to save their self-respect.

But Culina has reacted by voicing his doubts about the very future of the game in this country.

"The game needs so much work," he says. "I just can't see the light at the end of the tunnel. Not unless a business approach is made across the board that could be more viable. But I just don't believe that the game has an immediate future in Australia. Not for another twenty five or thirty years.

"I have lost a lot of my drive in the last couple of weeks. But it is hard because of some of the decisions people are making in this game. There are just so many petty jealousies and political struggles going on almost constantly.

"I spoke to Nick Politis recently and he assures me that it isn't as bad as that in rugby league. I just don't know where we are heading. This game is so noted for its jealousies."

Always a controversial figure, Culina has nevertheless been one of a brave new front of coaches in Australia.

Should he decide to quit the game then Australian soccer will have lost one of its best coaches, a man who just eighteen months ago was the popular vote for the next Socceroo coaching position.



Speaking out: Branko Culina has lashed out at the jealousies and in-fighting which are racking Australian soccer

Photo by Carlos Furtado

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The football world salutes a real hero

by Adrian Warner
in London

SIR AFL Ramsey, who guided England to the greatest day in its soccer history when it won the 1966 World Cup, has died at the age of 79.

Ramsey, who played 32 times for England before going on to manage the national team from 1963 to 1974, died last Wednesday at a nursing home in Ipswich in eastern England.

Ramsey, who was knighted by Britain's Queen Elizabeth in 1967 after the World Cup triumph, had suffered a mild stroke last June.

In his playing career he was regarded as one of the most cultured defenders to wear an England shirt.

But he will be best remembered as a composed and quietly-spoken manager who inspired a team to English soccer's greatest hour on July 30 1966.

England beat the former West Germany 4-2 in the World Cup final at Wembley, its only triumph in the world's most prestigious soccer

competition.

"The funny thing is he was one of the coolest men in the whole place. He kept his composure. That was one of the great things about him," former England international Jimmy Armfield said.

"I don't think we'll see one like him again," former England captain Alan Mullery said.

"He was the best England manager ever."

"When he said something you listened."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair added: "Sir Alf gave England its greatest moment in its sporting history."

Ramsey coached the unfashionable Ipswich Town to the English league championship in 1962 in their first season in the first division before taking on the England job.

In an interview about the job, Ramsey once said in typically modest style: "I had no reason to apply for this position."

"It took me some considerable time to make up my mind. I decided to have a go."

He was sacked in 1974 after England failed to qualify for the World Cup finals in West

Germany later in that year.

Some regretted that he was not kept on in an advisory role.

England failed to qualify for the following World Cup finals in 1978.

He became a director of Birmingham City in 1976 and was briefly manager of the club in 1977 and 1978 before giving up due to ill health after six months.

Despite his quietly-spoken nature, Ramsey did bravely predict that England would win the World Cup two years before the 1966 competition.

Sir Bobby Charlton, one of the most famous players of the Ramsey era, once said: "He was the one who brought a professional attitude to the players."

"When he picked you, you felt he picked you because you could do a job."

He enjoyed great respect among his players. Goalkeeper Peter Bonetti, who had a disappointing game against West Germany when England went out of the quarter-finals of the 1970 World Cup finals after a 3-2

defeat, said: "Alf never rebuked me."

"I had a poor game in the quarter-finals but he was the sort of manager who knows when you're down and you've had a bad game. He didn't slam into you."

Bonetti added: "He was a very private man. It was very sad the way he left football."

"He had so much knowledge that wasn't used."

During his reign England lost just 17 out of 113 games.

The English Football Association's acting chief executive David Davies was first to break the news of Sir Alf's death to present England manager Kevin Keegan who won his first cap under Ramsey.

Keegan told Davies: "Sir Alf was the greatest England manager there's ever been."

Davies added: "He will go not just into the football history books but his country's history books for what he achieved."



Premiership and Football League match.

The tributes to Sir Alf, who steered England to World Cup success in 1966, came as it was learned that the Football Association (FA) will discuss installing a permanent memorial to him at the new National Stadium.

Members of Sir Alf's 1966 side, including Sir Bobby Charlton and Alan Ball, have led the calls for England's greatest manager to be recognised for all time when Wembley is renovated.

The most likely possibility is a statue, although instead there could be a room named in his honour at the new stadium.

FA spokesman Steve Double said: "We will be

discussing in the coming week or so what can be done to provide a fitting memorial for him."

Ball believes the new Wembley would be the perfect venue to commemorate a manager he felt was never given the proper recognition for his unparalleled achievements.

The former England international said: "I was so disappointed that he was allowed to fade away."

"There is no way that he should be forgotten, and it would be a fitting tribute if they did something at the stadium."

Ball's call was backed by leading FA councillor David Sheepshanks, who paid tribute to Sir Alf's achievements not

only with England but also with Ipswich, whom he led to their only League title.

Ipswich chairman Sheepshanks, set to be a candidate for the vacant FA chairman's post, said: "Personally speaking, I would be very pleased to see him properly remembered for all time at the new National Stadium in some way."

A similar proposal, for a statue of Sir Alf at Portman Road, is currently being considered by the East Anglian club.

Sir Alf, who managed the national team from 1963-74, guided England to football's biggest prize when they beat West Germany 4-2 at Wembley on July 30, 1966.

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Sticca denies Scotland approach

by Bruce Campbell

CARLTON general manager Lou Sticca has refuted rumours circulating Australian soccer that the club is on the verge of landing former Scotland assistant national coach, Alex Miller.

Miller, also a long serving boss at Scottish league club Hibernian, faxed Australian clubs some months ago and expressed an interest in moving to this country on a permanent basis.

And it appeared that current coach Eddie Krncevic was on the verge of parting ways with the club he joined two seasons ago.

But Sticca has hit back at those suggestions slamming them as little more than rumours.

"We are currently conducting a complete review of the club and all of its operations," said Sticca.

"That includes my job

as well - it includes every facet of the club."

"We are coming up for our third season in the NSL and that is a very important period for this club."

"That is why we are doing the review, not for any other reason."

Sticca refused to give a time limit on when a new coach would be appointed - or whether current incumbent Eddie Krncevic would be re-appointed.

Krncevic, one of the most travelled Aussies of all time in his own playing days, had a brilliant start at Carlton taking the club to a Grand Final against main Victorian rivals South Melbourne in their first season.

But this season has seen the champagne go flat.

A number of reasons have contributed to that and Carlton have reacted positively by securing a new investment consor-

tium and addressing such issues as venue, name and colours.

The club review will probe deep into Carlton's operations to aim for the success that Sticca wants for that important third season.

"We will appoint a coach when we are ready to do that," he added.

"Other than that I don't want to make any further comment on the issue."

"But I will say that Alex Miller is not a consideration for the position of head coach."

Miller's interest in the club, and in Australia in general, has been heightened by news that former Scotland boss Andy Roxburgh has endorsed his application to coach in the NSL.

Inside Soccer's source in Scotland was at a function with Miller last week when Australia was hot on the agenda. But it seems that his designation is unlikely to be

Carlton.

"Of course we would be interested in the services of Alex Miller if he did come to Australia," explained Sticca.

"He has excellent credentials and any club would have to look at a personality of his calibre."

"If Alex Miller could offer something for Carlton Soccer Club then we would be stupid to ignore those options."

"As a business we have to explore all avenues. But I can assure you that Alex Miller is not under consideration for our head coach's position."

Miller has impeccable credentials having been a long serving manager at Hibernian in Scotland.

Curiously, there are three players in Australian football with Hibernian connections - Canberra's Gordon Hunter, Newcastle's Rab Shannon and Wollongong Youth coach Stuart Beedie.

Hunter was the club captain at Hibernian while Miller was there.

Another Scottish connection in the NSL is Gippsland's recent import Sandy Robertson, who although a former Rangers player, is well known to the former Scotland assistant coach.

Speculation has been hinting that Carlton and current coach Eddie Krncevic may soon part company.

Word from New Zealand placed Krncevic with the Auckland Kings job but that looks increasingly unlikely.

Sticca has been careful to quell the rumours while concentrating on what he sees as his club's most important task - planning for next season.

Carlton's players recently had a short break on the Gold Coast and are now set to resume training for next season with Eddie Krncevic still in charge.

Sharks, United or no-one?

By Sam Lienert

THE debt-ridden Adelaide Sharks NSL club is likely to be saved from extinction, with two bids to buy the outfit put to creditors.

Former club chairman Con Makris, who previously described himself as a fool for pumping several hundred thousand dollars into the ailing club this season, offered a bid of \$250,000.

Two other groups, the Friends of West Adelaide, made up of former members of the Sharks board, and Adelaide United, a consortium headed by local businessman Peter Emery, made a joint bid of \$350,000.

The team would be known as Adelaide United if the joint bid was accepted but Makris, who did not attend the meeting, hasn't said what the team would be called if he's successful.

Financial Administrator Bruce Mulvaney said neither bid was accepted but the creditors had voted for him to negotiate with both parties before a final vote on May 7.

He said the players, who went without match payments for several months, would benefit greatly if either offer was accepted, although the full details of how the money would be split up was still to



be decided.

"There is most likely to be a significant amount available to them to help them feed their families and get on with their career," Mulvaney told reporters.

"There is also every possibility that they'll have a future career here in Adelaide playing with Adelaide United or Adelaide Sharks."

Several players attended the meeting as creditors and defender Paul Souris said they were happy the club was likely to stay on in some form next season -- but the offers put were not high enough.

Soccer Australia has not

guaranteed the club a position in the NSL if it is sold, but Mulvaney said he was sure it would stay part of the competition.

"My clear advice is that the Adelaide Sharks will continue in the National Soccer League under whatever arrangement it is. That's been the clear precedent set in the past and I'm sure once the club gets restructured it will retain its place in the competition," he said.

At one stage it looked likely that the club would fold under an estimated debt of \$700,000.

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Rufer to be named

New Zealand's best known soccer player, Wynton Rufer, is set to coach the Football Kings in next season's NSL.

It is understood Rufer, recently named Oceania player of the century, has been offered a contract to coach the Auckland-based side in its debut season in the NSL.

Rufer's older brother, Shane, seems certain to take the assistant's job.

Today's launch, at which a number of issues including the team sponsors, backers, headquarters, home ground, coaching staff, uniform and

logo will be revealed, was confirmed by Kings spokesman Chris Turner as *Inside Soccer* went to press.

New Zealand Soccer (NZS) chairman Kevin Stratful had earlier suggested the launch might have again been delayed.

"Over the weekend we will be having another look at the numbers and if these stack up - and I have no reason to suspect they won't - the launch will definitely go ahead," Stratful said.

A change of rules could give the Kings a stronger hand in

the league.

In the past, NSL clubs have been restricted in the number of "imports" but now Oceania-based players will be free to play in the league without restriction.

And it seems likely some All Whites, including Chris Zoricich and Gavin Wilkinson, currently with Brisbane Strikers and Perth Glory respectively, will return to play for the Kings, as could Solomon Islands international and former New Zealand Footballer of the Year Batrim Suri.

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MANCHESTER UNITED DOWN UNDER 1999

United boss could become Sir Alex

Manchester United fans have been told that manager Alex Ferguson could officially become 'Sir Alex' if the idea received their backing.

Ferguson has enjoyed unprecedented success at Old Trafford and is hoping to guide the club to a unique treble of European Champions' Cup, Premiership title and the FA Cup this season.

That has led to suggestions in some quarters that the Scot should take his place alongside other knights like Sir Matt Busby and Sir Alf Ramsey.

According to the British government, Ferguson has a chance of receiving the prestigious award if fans join forces and vote for it under the new honours system.

Victory in the Champions' Cup final next month would certainly move Ferguson nearer a personal treble - he was awarded the OBE in 1985 and the CBE 10 years later.

"If Manchester United supporters wanted to vote en masse, they could do,"



a Downing Street spokesman said.

"The person needs to be nominated and anyone can nominate anyone.

"The honours system is open for absolutely anybody to nominate anyone for any honour they want to nominate them for.

"All they have to do is contact the Nominations Union for a form and the form is duly filled in by the person who wishes to nominate.

"It is quite straightforward. There are lots of people who are nominated and Mr Ferguson would have to be considered among the other nominations.

"We get thousands of nominations for the Queen's Birthday Honours and the New Year Honours."

All applications are judged by an honours panel whose composition is kept secret.

Galati defends ticket prices

By Paul Millar

ORGANISERS of the Socceroos versus Manchester United matches have defended the cost of tickets for the games in Sydney and Melbourne, saying prices are as low as they could possibly be.

Dominic Galati, the managing director of tour promoter Rivkin Entertainment, said the group needed crowds of 55,000 at the MCG on July 15 and Stadium Australia the following Saturday just to break even.

Tickets went on sale on Saturday with prices between \$55 and \$150 while the cheapest tickets for Australia's World Cup game against Iran at the MCG in 1997 were \$28.

Galati argued his company didn't aim to make big dollars from the tour, which is costing \$8 million to stage, and just wanted to put on a show and promote the code within Australia.

"We have tried to make the tickets as cheap as possible, but it's a costly exercise and Manchester



David Beckham: Aussie bound Man United star

United has asked for more money than any other sporting side ever to come to Australia," he said.

"The public has missed out on games of this sort of quality for more than 20 years, it's United's pre-season and we have guaranteed contracts that the

top players will be coming," he said.

Galati said the prices were cheaper than in Italy and that you just could not get a ticket for Manchester United's home games at Old Trafford.

He admitted it was a big gamble bringing United to Australia but

the group's timing was perfect as United is in line for the triple this season, the European Cup, the league title and the FA Cup.

"There's already been a lot of interest in these games and we've had to put on additional staff to cope," he said.

Galaxy of talent for World XI match

By Gordon Dexter

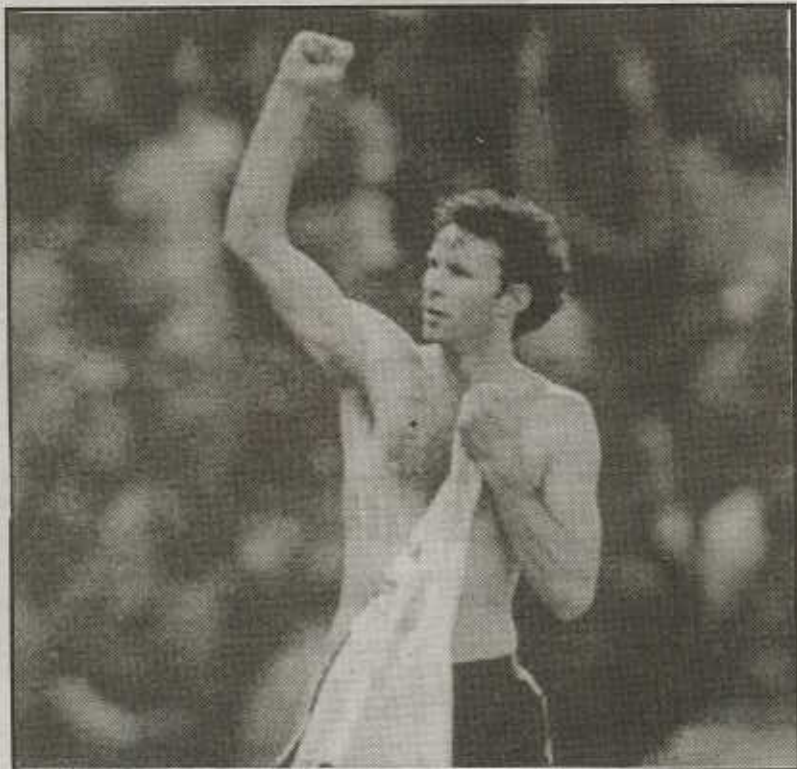
FRENCH World Cup hero Zinedine Zidane and Manchester United star David Beckham, Dwight Yorke and Ryan Giggs head the FIFA All Stars squad to tackle a full-strength Socceroos outfit at Sydney's Olympic stadium on June 12.

FIFA's 32-man provisional squad, to be reduced to a final 18 in mid-May, consists of 12 players from Italy's Serie A, five from England's Premier League, five from the Spanish first division and three from Germany's Bundesliga.

Six South Americans and three Africans ensure a global flavour to the greatest line-up of talent ever to grace an Australian soccer field.

Argentinian sharpshooter Gabriel Batistuta's appearance will bring back bitter memories for Australia which went down to the South Americans 2-1 on aggregate in World Cup qualifiers in 1993.

Argentina held Australia to a 1-1 draw in Sydney and Batistuta de-



Ryan Giggs: Manchester United's Welsh international will display his precocious talents at Homebush Bay for the World XI

stroyed Australia's dreams in Buenos Aires, scoring the only goal to send Argentina to the 1994 World Cup finals.

The match will cap a busy week for several of

the world team including Beckham (England) and Giggs (Wales) who will probably be contesting European Championship qualifiers on both June 5 and June 9.

The Manchester United players are also involved in the European Champions League final in late May and could arrive in Australia with an unprecedented three titles -

European Cup, FA Cup and Premiership.

The Australian public, starved of regular world class soccer, can also anticipate seeing three members of France's World Cup winning team - Inter Milan midfielder Youri Djorkaeff, Chelsea defender Marcel Desailly and French captain Lauren Blanc.

It will be a mouth-watering prospect for the expected 100,000 crowd, with the likes of Mark Bosnich, Harry Kewell, Mark Viduka, Tony Vidmar, Ned Zelic and Paul Okon in opposition to many of the world's leading players.

Italy's World Cup star Christian Vieri, who spent his childhood in Australia, will be a drawcard for the home fans.

Italian glamour boy Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus), Brazilian star Leonardo (AC Milan), Argentinian international Juan Veron (Parma) and Fernando Redondo (Real Madrid) and African striker George Weah (AC Milan) add further class.

Manchester United's

No.1 Peter Schmeichel will not be coming but the squad boasts three of the world's best keepers in Germany's Andreas Kopke, France's Bernard

Lama and Argentinian Carlos Roa.

The June 12 match between a FIFA World XI and Australia will celebrate the official opening

All Stars squad:

Goalkeepers:

Andreas Kopke (Germany, club Nurnberg), Bernard Lama (France, Paris Saint-Germain), Carlos Roa (Argentina, Real Mallorca).

Defenders:

Laurent Blanc (France, Olympique de Marseille), Julio Cesar (Brazil, Panathinaikos FC), Alessandro Costacurta (Italy, AC Milan), Marcel Desailly (France, Chelsea), Hadji El Moustafa (Morocco, Deportivo La Coruna), Carlos Gamarra (Paraguay, Corinthians), Fernando Hierro (Spain, Real Madrid), Rigobert Song (Cameroon, Liverpool), Frank Verlaat (Holland, VfB Stuttgart), Taribo West (Nigeria, Inter Milan), Aron Winter (Holland, Inter Milan).

Midfielders/strikers:

Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina, Fiorentina), David Beckham (England, Manchester United), Alessandro Del Piero (Italy, Juventus), Youri Djorkaeff (France, Inter Milan), Luis Figo (Portugal, Barcelona), Ryan Giggs (Wales, Manchester United), Jurgen Klinsmann (Germany), Leonardo (Brazil, AC Milan), Hidetoshi Nakata (Japan, Perugia), Raul (Spain, Real Madrid), Fernando Redondo (Argentina, Real Madrid), Ciriaco Sforza (Switzerland, Kaiserslautern), Andrei Shevchenko (Ukraine, Dynamo Kiev), Juan Veron (Argentina, Parma), Christian Vieri (Italy, Lazio), George Weah (Liberia, AC Milan), Dwight Yorke (Trinidad and Tobago, Manchester United), Zinedine Zidane (France, Juventus).

Coaches:

Aime Jacquet (France), Van Sam (Tahiti).

Aussie squad has Olympic touch

By Doug Conway

A FULL-strength Australian squad featuring Mark Bosnich, Harry Kewell, Mark Viduka, Ned Zelic and Paul Okon has been named to face a FIFA World XI at the official opening of Sydney's Olympic stadium in June.

The heavyweight lineup, Australia's most formidable since the last World Cup campaign in 1997, reflects the importance Soccer Australia is attaching to the show-

piece match, expected to be watched by 100,000 fans.

Bosnich, the Aston Villa star reportedly in Manchester United's sights, continues to enhance his reputation as one of the world's top goalkeepers.

Kewell is setting England's Premier League alight with his performances for Leeds.

Viduka has put his contractual wrangles behind him and is regularly hitting the net at Scotland's Glasgow Celtic.

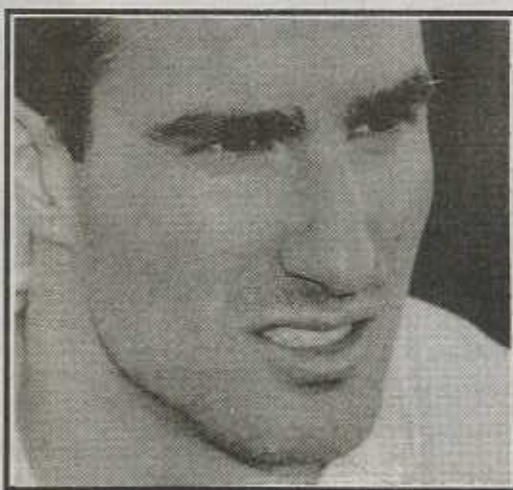
Okon, regarded as one of the most gifted players Australia has produced, has made a handful of appearances with Italian high-fliers Lazio in what he hopes will be a phase of his career free of the knee injury that has dogged him for so long.

Also in the 20-man squad is Adelaide City's Alex Tobin, who led the Socceroos in their unsuccessful bid for France 98.

Other veterans of the last World Cup campaign include Tony and Aurelio Vidmar, West Ham wing-back Stan Lazaridis, Hajduk Split midfielder Josip Skoko, Crystal Palace captain Craig Foster and Coventry City striker John Aloisi.

Olyroo captain Brett Emerton is one of five under-23s named, along with Kewell, Carlton defender Simon Colosimo, Hayden Foxe from Japan's Sanfrece Hiroshima and Vince Grella from Serie A's Empoli.

Of the 20-man squad



Tony Vidmar: named along with brother Aurelio

only Tobin, Emerton and Colosimo play with local clubs.

"This will be a great occasion and opportunity for them to mix with

champion players," said Raul Blanco, the Olyroo and caretaker Socceroo coach.

"It will also give them the opportunity to see

what is required when their big time comes for Sydney 2000, which really is not very far away.

"It will be an invaluable experience for these boys to be part of a squad which includes the likes of Bosnich, Okon, Viduka and Zelic.

"I met with the senior players overseas recently and was delighted with the overall response when I asked them about their availability.

"Everyone can't wait to be part of this match."

The timing certainly helps. The between-seasons June 12 date means Australia's top overseas stars won't be the centre of a tug-of-war with their clubs as they so often are.

The Australian squad is:

John Aloisi (Coventry City), Mark Bosnich (Aston Villa), Simon Colosimo (Carlton FC), Steve Corica (Wolverhampton Wanderers), Brett Emerton (Sydney Olympic), Craig Foster (Crystal Palace), Hayden Foxe (Hiroshima), Vince Grella (Empoli), Zeljko Kalac (Roda JC Kerkrade), Harry Kewell (Leeds United), Stan Lazaridis (West Ham), Kevin Muscat (Wolverhampton Wanderers), Paul Okon (Lazio), Tony Popovich (Hiroshima), Josip Skoko (Hajduk Split), Alex Tobin (Adelaide City), Aurelio Vidmar (Hiroshima), Tony Vidmar (Glasgow Rangers), Mark Viduka (Glasgow Celtic), Ned Zelic (TSV 1860 Munich).

Morocco bid is on

Morocco officially announced its bid to host the World Cup finals in 2006 last week.

"From today on ... Morocco is officially a candidate for the World Cup finals in 2006," Youth and Sports Minister Ahmed Moussaoui said.

Morocco's announcement seems to put in doubt South African hopes that the four African countries left in the race to host the 2006 finals could unite around an agreed candidate.

Ghana withdrew its candidacy last week and said it backed the South African bid.

Alhija Djawulah, president of the Ghana Football Association, said they had decided to withdraw the bid after world soccer's governing body FIFA made clear that co-hosting in Africa was not an option at present.

Ghana was keen to co-host the event with regional neighbours Ivory Coast and Nigeria and South Africa, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Cameroon. Ghana has thrown its support behind the South African bid.

But the South Africans still face competition from Morocco, Egypt and Nigeria as well as strong bids from England, Germany and Bra-

Two great teams battling it out for a place in the semi finals; I'd like to see THAT

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A Shocker

I HAD a bit of a shock while reading the Sunday Telegraph today 25/4/99.

In the soccer column written by John Taylor was a small story on Mark Schwarzer.

In the story, only a paragraph long, but beggars can't be choosers when it comes to the major press coverage of soccer, Taylor says that Schwarzer has decided to retire from the Socceroos, this was the first I had heard of it.

Sure the Middlesbrough keeper is probably a little way down the pecking order of Australian goalkeepers, but he must still have been in line for a place in the squad.

I thought he was having a great year in the English Premier League.

He wasn't injured for great lengths of time or recovering from injury like Mark Bosnich and Sasa Ilic, therefore would have been ideal for the game against the FIFA World XI, in June, at the very least.

Have I missed something somewhere?

I usually try to keep abreast of the soccer scene both here in Oz and over in the UK, so this was out of left field for me.

Can you throw any light on this decision?

Danny Stapleton
Cooma NSW

(I THINK beggars can be choosers.

I don't buy the major metropolitan dailies anymore because they are all just the exact same - syndicated news coverage with a minimum of soccer copy.

So I have voted with my sporran and buy only soccer publications.

I get to read the soccer in the dailies by browsing through their web sites.

The story concerning Mark Schwarzer was given extensive coverage in last week's Inside Soccer, page 5. - Ed).

Spirit Phenomenon

THE phenomenon that is Northern Spirit never ceases to amaze.

Over the years there have been many clubs that have managed to make the finals series by playing dreary football.

Adelaide City have made it into an art form but only Spirit have been able to do it and still draw consistently huge and enthusiastic crowds by Australian soccer standards.

Honestly, you can count on one hand the number of really entertaining matches that Spirit have been party to.

If it were not for a measure of good fortune and Hendo Heroics in goal then Spirit would not have qualified for the play-offs.

Generally, their football can only be described as dreary, convoluted, incoherent, disorganised - anything but easy on the eye.

It is no accident that they have scored so few goals even though they have proven goal scorers like Zane.

Most of the time they play like a team who couldn't score goals even if they played until the cows came home.

If, by some miracle, they advance during the finals then all the players and staff should thank their lucky stars and pay Hendo a special extra bonus.

If they can garner such strong support while playing such dreary football what sort

of crowds could they get if they put together a quality entertaining and winning team?

Unlimited.

Who knows, as I have said many times before Northern Spirit is a soccer club in Australia like none before.

Nobody can explain how or why it happened or what its future will be other than in one season it has shaken the NSL and the soccer establishment to the core.

Robert Melor
Bondi NSW

(DON'T try and be too subtle - just say what you think!!!! - Ed).

20 Ways to Improve Soccer

I sent you a letter which you printed at the end of February, on the Socceroos Versus World XI article I found in another Australian sports magazine.

I recently found another soccer based article in the same magazine, Total Sport, which wasn't a complete waste of space, like the rest of the issue.

No one was game to put their name on it, but its worth bringing to your notice anyway.

It was entitled: 20 Ways We'd Improve Soccer.

Most of it was pretty forgettable, it was mainly aiming for a few quick laughs at the world game's expense, but a few of the suggestions which I have reproduced here, struck a chord with my son and I.

1. Use kick-ins from the sidelines instead of throw-ins. After all soccer is a game played with the feet.

There would be more goal mouth action, because players

Your WRITE

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Letters on any football related subject are welcome but should reach us by Friday morning prior to print to reach the next deadline.

kick further than they can throw (not completely without merit).

5. Ban tripping, holding and pushing.

Any offenders should receive a red card.

Too many skilful players are being shackled by defenders who employ these cynical tactics (here, here - the sooner the better).

6. Employ two referees instead of one.

Soccer today is faster and played under immeasurable pressure.

Because there is so much at stake, more players are resorting to cheating (already being tested in England I believe and has its pros and cons. But what are the linesmen or assistant referees as they are now called, there for).

8. Overturn the law which says a player cannot run to the crowd to celebrate a goal. Soccer needs all the passion it can generate (I didn't know it was banned, it is certainly better than getting on your knees and sniffing the white lines).

15. Play four quarters instead of two halves.

Shorter, more frequent breaks will benefit players,

coaches, fans and boost TV coverage (I have to agree with this one).

The next two could be coupled together;

10. Scrap the offside rule in extra-time.

Everything should be done to break the deadlock.

This new rule could lead to some exciting and bizarre play (you're not wrong).

11. Abolish the offside rule altogether as no one in the world really understands it.

Bad offside decisions have destroyed games over the years (very controversial, but not completely out of left field).

Some of the other suggestions are quite funny, like playing with out goalies in extra time, or preventing players from celebrating a goal (amongst themselves) unless they are using contraception.

My favourite was replacing riot police with bikini models to control troublesome crowds.

This would have crowd

numbers up in no time, especially here in Australia.

Be a bit chilly in Europe though, like the following.

Obliging players to wear skimpy shorts and tight, sleeveless jerseys to attract female fans.

Just plain sexist I hear you say, like beach volleyball making girls wear skimpy bikini like outfits in world class games.

The fact is they are forced to wear them, this is the way sport is heading to attract sponsorship.

Will soccer be far behind in this sort of promotion? Can you imagine Newcastle Breakers big Bob Catlin in goals in a pair of skimpy shorts and a sleeveless singlet, sends shivers up the spine doesn't it.

It would either set attendances and the game back fifty years, or be a life line to raise the sports profile with the younger consumers.

Let's wait and see before we dismiss it as a joke to quickly, soccer in Australia needs something to improve its profile, is this it.

Danny Stapleton
Cooma, NSW

(As always Danny, your contributions have something in

them - Bobby in a bikini, now I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT. - Ed)

Best Writers

THE recent comments in Inside Soccer about soccer journalists has raised the question: 'Who is the best?'

It would seem that some of your readers do not like Michael Cockerill or John Taylor. My own favourite was the late Lawrie Schwab.

It would seem that the majority would rate Cockerill as the best even although his TV commentary is fairly ordinary.

What do you think?

L Robinson
St Kilda VIC
(TO BE honest, I would rather not comment on my fellow writers, that isn't entirely ethical.

Every now and again we get letters about various writers and commentators - and we publish them.

We do not do that out of any sense of malice but merely because this page provides a

forum for public opinion.

As such, we have also printed letters which make critical points about this publication.

However, any list of top writers would have to include the late Lawrie Schwab.

My own list? - everyone who writes for Inside Soccer. - Ed).

Proud Joey

I WAS pleasantly surprised to see young Aussie, Shane Cansdell - Sherrieff, is playing for the Joeys (Australian Under 17's) even though he is on English Premier League club, Leeds United's books.

Good luck to him, now let's see if the others will be able to make the choice to play for their own country, as well.

I know we have probably bored ourselves silly over this subject of Leeds forcing its young Aussie trainees to play for the home countries, England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland instead of Australia.

Let's hope the Leeds back down is for the right reasons and the kid won't be treated harshly by his employers.

Let's hope some sanity will return to Australian and Leeds

dealings with each other and this is the end of the matter.

I think the real villains in the whole affair are the tax payer funded teachers and principal at a certain Sydney region high school.

They were supposedly taking kick backs to spot young talent for the English clubs.

At least that is they way it was reported in the major press.

I hope it was a beat up, but unfortunately there really does appear to be some truth in it.

Quite sickening isn't it, if it is true. Meanwhile, Leeds United's Harry Kewell will play for the Socceroos against the FIFA All Stars, in June, so all is right in the world.

But I hope Alex Tobin gets to continue to wear the captains arm band, he so richly deserves, in the same game.

Who else deserves it more, it will top off a brilliant career and come on the Zebras for the NSL finals.

Danny Stapleton
Cooma, NSW

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Bruce Campbell

IM WHO?

IN ALL of the fuss, and isn't it great, that is surrounding the impending visit of Manchester United maybe one thing has been overlooked – the role of IMG.

Weren't they supposed to be involved in the promotion of soccer at the higher level?

Maybe I am just a cynic but the only involvement I have noticed in Australian soccer since IMG came on board was the protracted and media unfriendly Mark Viduka transfer.

If my memory serves me correct Rene Rivkin offered a pretty good package to Soccer Australia which was ultimately rejected.

But it seems that Mr Rivkin is made of pretty stern stuff and Aussie fans can be extremely grateful of that because the Manchester United tour is living proof.

I don't see many out there ready to shell out \$8million of their own money to back their own judgement.

It could well be time to ask some serious questions 'in the house', as they say in parliament.

We might even ask Soccer Australia to amplify the situation and what seems to be a remarkable incongruity.

It could even make some pretty interesting reading.

If anyone wants to shed some light on the situation ...

THERE are changes currently taking place in Australian football which could well have a huge significance on the game's short and mid term future.

The extraordinary success of Perth Glory and Northern Spirit at the box office has many people within the game re-thinking their strategies.

It would seem that the old days are very definitely gone and that a new vision is required to be a part of the Australian football future.

It is easy to say that the crowds at both Spirit and Glory are largely British and represent just another ethnic segment of Australia's complex multicultural make-up.

But is it as simple as that?

In the 1950s and 1960s Australia experienced a huge boom in migration and while there were undoubtedly many new settlers from Europe the overwhelming majority was from the United Kingdom.

By the '70s it was no longer cool

IT'S ONLY AN OPINION

to be British, Australia embraced a period of Americanisation which led to a complete change in the culture.

Soccer suffered.

The round ball game slumped because it could no longer attract those with British backgrounds to the game.

Instead, soccer became largely a European influenced sport.

This definitely wasn't the case in the 1960s when, in Sydney at least, the overwhelming majority of players were of British origin.

However, after a period of discovering Australian national identity in the '80s it would seem that the present decade has brought something just a bit different, a period in which we have decided that maybe it isn't so bad after all to accept that we do have huge ties with Britain.

And I do not just refer to my fellow Anglo-Celts, I talk also of

many friends within the game who are of European origin.

They too find it very acceptable to go and watch football at Spirit and Glory because they feel comfortable at those clubs.

It would seem that they can now find a sense of belonging at a club which embraces all Australians.

Of course, there are other clubs who embrace this ideology, an ideology of football for Australia.

That isn't to knock the concept of single ethnic clubs.

Quite the opposite because these clubs have been born out of a community spirit in the same way in which a district club is born.

The only difference is that they share another common factor beside a love of the game, they share a common migrant background.

The current trend would suggest that clubs which are successful on the pitch and who embrace the new trend will attract big crowds.

Figures also suggest that those who don't are experiencing either static or diminishing crowds.

Of course, there are 'sensitive new age' clubs who have not enjoyed success at the turnstile – but by and large they have not enjoyed success on the park either.

It would seem that box office success requires both to be in place.

Over the course of the last few months I have received many, many calls and letters from readers on this subject.

It would seem that the tangible evidence of the reawakening in British heritage is manifesting itself with an ever increasing vocal section of the population.

My hope is that we have learnt from the disaster of 1957 when an acceptance of the new shift in power then, to that of a European single ethnic club base, split our game asunder.

And while I don't think that such a bitter split is likely to ever happen again I do believe that we need to be mindful of the past so that we can find a place within the game for all sections, for all types of club, for all Australia.

That should be the true beauty of the world game as it rolls onto the new millennium.

P.S. Marconi and South Melbourne

IT IS almost impossible to generalise about Australian soccer without someone taking offence.

I know that my colleagues at both Marconi and South Melbourne will take the hump about what I have written in the piece above.

I'd like to state for the record that I think that both of those two great clubs are the EXCEPTION which prove the rule.

Both have been immensely successful over the years and are rightly considered within the ranks of the industry professionals as benchmark clubs, the ones which everybody else has to measure up to. That isn't to say that they have any complacency and I know that Marconi have spent a lot of time and resource addressing the issue of their own future direction.

But, in the same way as Newell's

Old Boys and AC Milan, have been astonishingly successful in their own countries within foreign backgrounds I believe that both will go into the next century in more or less the same high esteem which they currently enjoy in the game.

Nobody knows the reason why one brand of sauce is more successful than another and the same lack of logic applies in football also.

Bit one thing that both the Stallions

and the Blues have in common is a recognition of excellence in footballers.

With the best players on display at each club for the best part of three and a half decades they have an established reputation for excellence. That alone will see them through the difficult decisions needing to be made and the almost certain changes awaiting Australian football.

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THE 1999 NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE TOP SIX

Alex Tobin: Zebra with a mission

by Stuart Jones

AS WE head into the second week of the Top Six series we tackle two of the protagonists front on.

Alex Tobin has come under some criticism for his recent displays by interstate journalists but continues to defy calls for him to quit.

Meanwhile, his club side continue to perform well even if it is not up to the expectations of others around the country.

As for the second leg against Perth Glory, he believes that Adelaide City have the players to overcome the difficulties they will face at the WACA.

"Getting to the finals was always the aim for

too that whatever happens in the first leg it is never over until full time of both legs.

"If you look at the defence we have had a great season.

"Our record at Hindmarsh is brilliant.

"As well as Milan and myself we have youngsters like Angelo (Costanzo) who have really played well.

"Defending is a team effort and all the players have helped out this season.

"The best thing about Angelo is that he enjoys going forward and helps create chances.

"We have not scored the goals this season and that has been a problem.

"We have not seen the criticism of the side that

think because there are 500 people present at a game the quality is not there, or that just because 20,000 people are present the game is A+.

"That shows a lack of knowledge of football.

"Our league has 20 or so players who should not be in it perhaps but overall the standard is tremendous despite the player drain.

"As for the club itself, people have been critical of the crowds.

"However, when you look at the facts our crowds have not decreased this year and average around the 5,000 mark.

"Of course there is still room for improvement.

"Remember Hindmarsh has only a capacity of

"You can not listen to interstate journalists who base their opinions on one or two games a year,"

Adelaide City," says the City and Socceroo skipper.

"We have achieved that so you would have to say we have had a successful season.

"We would have been happier if like last year we had made it more comfortably but then again we got knocked out early last year so it does not matter - the thing is to make it first and foremost.

"Overall we have been inconsistent.

"Our record on the road has been poor as has our record against teams we were expected to defeat.

"However, we have done well against every team in the Top Six and that augurs well for the finals.

"As for, the finals we have the players to do it.

"The WACA will be a great place to play at but it will mean our experienced boys have to step up.

"We look forward to playing in front of that large audience, we won at Perth last time and there is no reason we can not do it again.

"We have a strong finals tradition at Adelaide City and we were made well aware that we needed to continue this.

"However, our performances in the first games against Marconi and Wollongong in the finals in recent years is a reminder that we need to concentrate.

"It should be a warning

there may have been in other states.

"Our supporters are some of the toughest in the league but they have not been on our backs this season.

"You can not listen to interstate journalists who base their opinions on one or two games a year, those who have seen us regularly know the state of play.

"When you look at our record how can there be too much criticism?

"Milan has played well, he may not have the speed of the past but he is still magnificent, Jason Petkovic has had a great second half of the season in goals, and our youngsters have really stood up.

"If we manage a couple of goals it should be enough to see us through the first stages of the finals.

"As for the attack, Damian has scored well.

"Carl Veart came back with all sorts of expectations heaped upon him.

"However, many people in the game underestimate the standard of the league, it really is tough.

"Look at the imports we get out here, sometimes we get Serie C players who think they will dominate and when they get out here they struggle to make the team.

"The NSL is no easy beat league and it annoys me to think people underestimate it so much.

"Sometimes people

9,000 this year as it is being redeveloped.

"When it is finished it will hold 20,000 seated patrons.

"Sometimes you hear of the 1970s and the great crowds we had then in the NSL, but check the facts and it was not as rosy as some remember it.

"As for the financial situation at City off the park we are okay at present.

"However as professional football becomes predominant in Australia we in Adelaide must certainly not expect players just to stay because they are local boys, we are going to have to pay them an equal wage to what they will get elsewhere.

"We also need to sort out the leasing agreement of Hindmarsh Stadium.

"At the moment we lease it from the South Australian Soccer Federation."

So what of the future of football in Adelaide overall.

If things are going okay for City they are certainly not for the Sharks.

And then there is the possibility of a new club in the City of Churches, Adelaide United.

"Our fans tend to boycott the away derby (which is played at our home ground anyway) so the last crowd we played in front of for that game was the worst I have ever seen in terms of numbers," adds Tobin.



Alex Tobin: the Socceroo captain is on a mission with the Adelaide City Zebras

Photo by Carlos Furtardo

"Certainly the off field antics of some involved in the club have not helped things.

"As for (the mooted new club) Adelaide United I really think they will not have time to get up and running before next season.

"Maybe having one team in the town will see a few things go City's way, I certainly hope so."

That final game showed the importance of semi final football to Adelaide City and Zoran Matic, who certainly showed more emotion than usual.

"Zoran was very nervous because he did not want to be the coach who stopped the run of finals appearances at Adelaide City.

"That is why he was extremely pleased after the match.

"As for the goal itself I did not celebrate because

I wasn't sure, seeing Carl (Veart) and George (Bouhoutsos) tumble on the line I thought it would be a foul.

"However looking at the replay it looks okay.

"It was such a long lasting seven minutes, what with the delay whilst the opposition complained.

"Then David Terminiello ran onto the pitch to celebrate so the linesman flagged and he got booked.

"When I saw the flag I thought he was going to disallow the goal.

"It was all very dramatic but we got through.

"All three of my goals this season have come from headers!

"The young blokes stayed focused and Jason Petkovic made a good save at the end and we got through.

"At least we are talking

about finals once more."

After the Grand Final come some big Socceroo games and Alex Tobin is once more in the fold although there are critics out there who do not want him to be involved.

"I have been asked about retirement for a long time," he says.

"In 1993 a Melbourne journalist asked me if I was retiring and I was only 28.

"Remember the last World Cup - players at 35 and 36 were playing.

"The constant speculation does annoy me but I think people think I am as old as Milan (Ivanovic) and that is not the case.

"I think a lot of interstate journalists base my performance on two or three games away from home rather than the whole season, and that is not good journalism.

"Having said all that I will enjoy playing for my country once more.

"It should be fantastic playing in front of the big audiences, and maybe we will even get some decent TV coverage.

"It is great that some of the youngsters are playing too.

"Simon (Colosimo) and Brett (Emerton) have played really well and deserve to be there.

"They are certainly great prospects for the future."

So I guess the answer is we will be seeing Alex Tobin around for some time to come yet.

He is, after all, the most capped player in Australian soccer history, so cases for his dropping have to be based on the full facts.

For now he will concentrate on this week's game against Perth for

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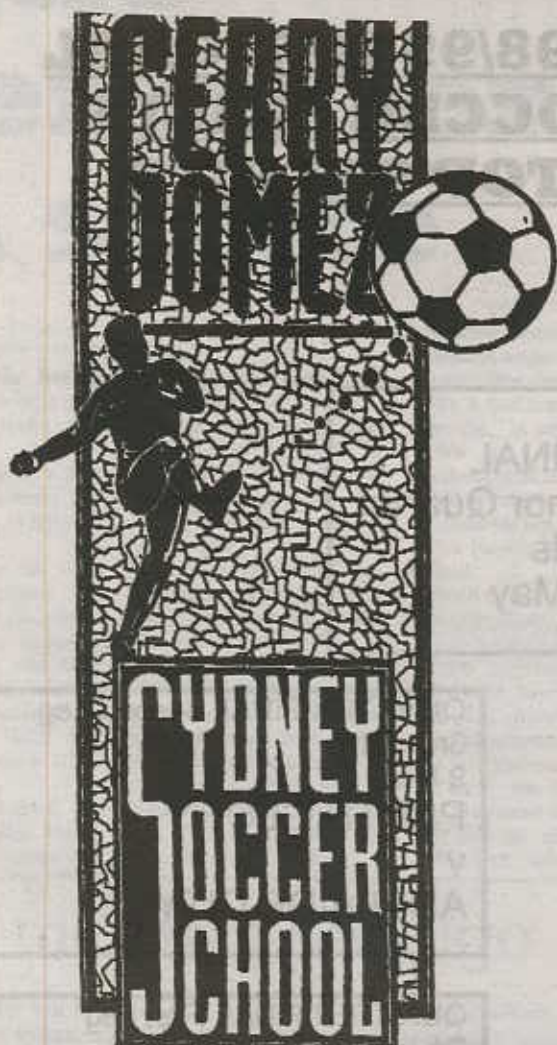
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THE 1999 NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE TOP SIX

Perth preparation hit by threatened player strike

By Scott Coghlan and
Bruce Campbell

PERTH is oozing confidence as it prepares for its National Soccer League finals home debut this weekend.

The Glory opened the finals campaign last Sunday with the first leg of the elimination final series against Adelaide City at Hindmarsh Stadium.

"We've got a lot of guys who have played in finals games - John Markovski, Rob Trajkovski, Con Boutsianis - they've all played grand finals, so I don't think we'll be short of experience," Paul Strudwick said.

Coach Bernd Stange

has already warned Adelaide City that his side was nearing its peak.

"They are the most experienced team in Australia - but we are the highest scorers and we like our chances," he said.

But the record busting side's preparation for that first finals game against the Zebras was thrown into turmoil last week when several players threatened to strike.

A number of players threatened to go on strike, apparently unhappy with bonuses being paid to some players for making the finals.

Glory officials were tight-lipped on the matter, but it appeared the issue was resolved before



last Sunday's first leg in Adelaide.

Temper also flared at a late week training session

when Giamfranco Circati and Troy Halpin had to be disciplined after a heated clash.

Two seasons ago Sydney United players went on strike in the week leading up to the Grand Final over unpaid match payments.

Then the United players walked out on sessions and refused to make other club commitments.

With a disrupted preparation they put on a lacklustre performance in the Grand Final, taken out by Brisbane Strikers.

King Kres aiming for record

By Anthony Raineri

Northern Spirit player-coach Graham Arnold will welcomed back his big guns for the club's inaugural NSL finals match against Marconi last Friday night at North Sydney Oval.

But that, and the added preliminary bonus of an all-time NSL finals record crowd, wasn't enough to give Spirit an important first leg victory.

Five key players who missed the previous week's 1-0 defeat to Marconi, Robbie Slater, Mark Rudan, Clayton Zane, Ian Crook and Matthew Langdon, were back for that match which ended up as a blood bath with Marconi players on the receiving end.

Despite the scoreless draw, Spirit is still in with a good chance of progressing to the next stage - a play-off against



the winner of the Perth v Adelaide tie.

And Spirit vice-captain Kresimir Marusic hopes he can continue a unique record in Australian soccer.

The 29-year-old midfielder is bidding for his fourth consecutive grand final appearance, each with a different club.

Marusic, who came to Australia in 1995 from Dynamo Zagreb in his native Croatia, has played in the showpiece with Melbourne Knights, Sydney United and Carlton.

His only success was with the Knights, but he won the Player of the Year award and the league premiership with United.

"It's a good record, but I don't want to stop now," Marusic said.

"This time it will be different because previously my teams always finished first or second, which gave us a double chance.

"This is the first season where we start the finals series with an elimination game."

Champions added bonus

THE winner of the 1999 NSL Grand Final will receive an added bonus - possible participation in the inaugural FIFA World Club Challenge set for 5-14 January.

The host country, which will be announced at the end of this month, will be chosen from Mexico, USA, Brazil, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, China, Turkey and Tahiti.

One club will represent each Confederation while the total of eight will be made up by adding a club from the host country and the winner of the Toyota Cup.

The next hurdle facing the NSL champions is an Oceania tournament which is scheduled for 23-31 October in Fiji.

However, any current NSL team would be strongly fancied to defeat the amateur and part time clubs of the 12 Oceania Confederation membership.

1998/99 NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE TOP 6 SERIES

GRAND FINAL

29/30 May

VENUE: TBC, either Olympic Park, Melbourne or Parramatta Stadium, Sydney

PRELIMINARY FINAL
winner of Semi Final v
loser of Major 1/4 Final
22/23 May

SEMI FINAL
winners of Minor Quarter
Finals
15/16 May

QUARTER FINAL Second Leg
1st v 2nd
16 May
SYDNEY UNITED
v
SOUTH MELBOURNE

QUARTER FINAL First Leg
2nd v 1st
9 May
SOUTH MELBOURNE
v
SYDNEY UNITED

QUARTER FINAL Second Leg
4th v 5th
9 May
MARCONI FAIRFIELD
v
NORTHERN SPIRIT

QUARTER FINAL First Leg
5th v 4th
30 April
NORTHERN SPIRIT 0
MARCONI FAIRFIELD 0

QUARTER FINAL Second Leg
3rd v 6th
9 May
PERTH GLORY
v
ADELAIDE CITY

QUARTER FINAL First Leg
6th v 3rd
2 May
ADELAIDE CITY 0
PERTH GLORY 0

THE 1999 NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE TOP SIX

United: waiting for the blow torch

by Damir Govorcin

VETERAN Sydney United defender David Barrett (pictured) says his side are going all out for victory when they take on South Melbourne in their semi-final first leg at Lakeside Stadium this Sunday.

"If we sit back and play for a draw we will get thumped," asserted Barrett.

"We are a young, attacking side and we will play to our strengths."

"It's going to be an intimidating atmosphere playing in front of their home crowd, but there's no reason why we can't get a result."

Sydney United players parted hard after taking out the minor premiership, but coach David Mitchell was quick to get their minds back on the job with a series of tough training sessions.

Mitchell has publicly stated that he believes winning the league premiership is a bigger feat than a grand final victory, but that's not to say that



United aren't hell-bent on achieving the double.

The fact that Sydney United have never won a Grand Final is incentive enough for the players.

"When we went back to the club after winning the minor premiership and all

our supporters were quick to point out how much it would mean to them for us to win a Grand Final," said Barrett.

"The euphoria has started to die down and everyone is getting back

down to business.

"We have had such a special year with all the dramas and winning the Grand Final would be a great way to finish it off."

Finals football is a cut-throat atmosphere and how far United go in the

Photo by Carlos Furtado

finals series will largely depend on how their younger brigade, Mile Sterjovski, Joel Griffiths, Jacob Burns and Nathan Day cope with the pressure.

"Our younger players won't be intimidated because they have the temperament to handle the situation," said Barrett.

"They realise this is a stepping stone for a career in Europe and are determined to perform when the blow torch is applied."

To achieve victory, Sydney United must shut down Paul Trimboli, the player who makes South Melbourne tick.

"Paul doesn't play as an out an out striker or a midfielder, but sits in between which makes him difficult to keep quiet," offered Barrett.

"If you mark him one on one he can drag the defender all over the ground which creates gaps elsewhere."

"I don't think it's possible to shut Paul down, but we must try and blunt his effectiveness."

Top 6 Stats

MOST EXPERIENCED FINALS PLAYERS

	P	W	D	L	Goals
Alex Tobin (Adelaide City)	35	21	2	12	1
Milan Ivanovic (Adelaide City)	30	17	2	11	0
Francis Awaritefe (Marconi)	28	10	6	12	9
Mike Petersen (S Melbourne)*	28	14	5	9	4
Paul Trimboli (Sth Melb)	28	12	4	12	6

*retired

MOST FINALS GOALS

	P	W	D	L	Goals
Francis Awaritefe	9				
Frank Farina	7				
Damian Mori	7				
Marshall Soper	7				
Andrew Harper	6				
Bradley Hassell	6				
Paul Trimboli	6				
Carl Veart	6				

*all Finals Series since 1984 included.
Statistics supplied by Andrew Howe*

MOST EXPERIENCED FINALS COACHES

	P	W	D	L
Zoran Matic	30	20	1	9
Manfred Schaefer	22	11	3	8
Frank Arok	17	10	0	7
Eddie Thomson	12	4	2	6
Branko Culina	10	5	1	4
Mirko Bazic	10	5	2	3

FINALS SERIES RECORD - TOP SIX TEAMS ONLY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Adelaide City	35	21	2	12	50	35	65
Marconi Fairfield	34	16	6	12	56	45	54
South Melbourne	34	16	5	13	54	49	53
Sydney Olympic	29	15	2	12	41	40	47
Melbourne Knights	25	8	6	11	30	36	30
Sydney United	22	8	3	11	20	27	27

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Perth set to make history with lots of noise

by Jason Marocchi

MORE than 25,000 people will pack the WACA Ground on Saturday night to watch the historic first NSL finals match ever to be played in Perth.

Perth Glory host Adelaide City in the second leg of an elimination

match in a city that has gone soccer-mad.

Glory Chairman Nick Tana said ticket sales have been booming since they went on sale last Wednesday, with 7,000 tickets snapped up by members on the first day.

Tana said the game will be the biggest in the club's three year history

and will be an historic day for the game in Western Australia.

"We have created a different level of following that has never been seen here before in this state," he said. "People who come from non-soccer backgrounds are taking an interest in soccer and that's making our

game bigger and better."

Tana said the club had achieved its goal for the season and that success for the club in the finals would be a bonus.

"At the start of the season we set a goal to finish in the Top Six," he said.

"We've achieved that goal and now we're treating each game as if it's a

Grand Final."

Glory have tried hard to transform the ground to meet the requirements for soccer.

The Eastern Stand has been relocated from Perth Oval to sit behind the goals at the eastern end of the WACA, in an attempt to close the ground in and make it resemble a rectangular soccer field.

Tana said the cricket pitch in the middle of the ground would not be of any concern to the players.

"The pitch has a good covering of grass on it and is very soft under foot," he said.

Tana said the strange surroundings of the WACA would not deter Glory's supporters and that the atmosphere would be electric.

The famous Shed will not be there, but Glory have created an area on the grass banks for the 'Shed Boys' to continue their chanting and taunting of the opposition.

Tana said the WACA would contain noise better than the open spaces of Perth Oval and expects the crowd to be a lot louder than the normal Sunday afternoon.

Maloney fit as Stallions look to break deadlock

Marconi-Fairfield captain and key player Brad Maloney was an injury scare going into the first week of last week's NSL quarter final match against Northern Spirit.

Maloney, 27, was struggling to rectify a strained quadricep in his right leg.

"I have not trained all week," Maloney said before the Stallions held Spirit to a 0-0 draw in the first leg last Friday.

"I didn't want to aggravate the injury and miss three or four matches like in the past."

Maloney, who made his Socceroo debut last September during the Oceania Nations Cup, finished the season as the league's second top scorer with 16 goals, a remarkable achievement for a midfielder.

"The last thing I want is to be a passenger in the team," he said. "In finals

football you can't do that.

"You end up regretting it. I'd rather have someone who is 100 per cent fit doing the job than myself at less than 100 per cent."

Last Friday both sides were booed off the pitch after a match which contained few highlights.

But with the scores locked at 0-0 there is little likelihood of a repeat in the second leg at Marconi Stadium.

Should the tie remain level at the end of 90 minutes then, under the Top Six regulations, sudden death extra time will be played. If a draw remains at the end of that 30 minute period then the match will be replayed midweek with a penalty shoot out the ultimate decider.

Marconi has won one, drawn one and lost win in three matches against Spirit this season.

OTTIE ABONYI - AN AUSSIE LEGEND : Part 3

GREG STOCK continues his in-depth interview with OTTIE ABONYI, one of the fastest players to ever pull on a green and gold shirt - and one of the best.

Moving to Sydney, the great St George, Arok and Rasic

TO BE CONTINUED



GS: At the end of the end of 1969 you dropped out a bit from the Socceroos side due to business commitments.

AA: "Well its a bit of a long story, but I moved to Sydney in '69 and my first child was born in May of '69 and I was just settling into Sydney, new job, etc.

"And they went away on this particular trip in 1970 and I think they went away for something like six weeks.

"At this stage I had already had so much time off from work and so forth.

"I mean back in those days everybody had a full time job and were virtually part time soccer players, so you couldn't really have so much time off.

"As I said my son was born, first year in Sydney so a lot of personal things happened and come together all in one hit.

"And therefore I thought, as much as I would have loved to, but at that stage due to different circumstances I thought it was best that I didn't and I had to say no.

"One of those unfortunate things."

GS: But you were back shortly after?

AA: "Oh yeah, it was never meant to be a retirement.

"I explained to Rale at the time that with my first child, the business, settling into Sydney because it was a hell of a move for me as you can appreciate I was still only young.

"I was only twenty two and I made a move from Melbourne to Sydney, and geez it was like living in a different world. I was finding my feet, new job and new this and so there was a lot of things I had to attend to, so that was it."

GS: So how did your move to St George Budapest come about?

AA: "Well it was straight forward.

"In '67 when I got into this final squad to go to Vietnam we assembled in Sydney and I happened to have

Johnny Warren as my room mate.

"And he of course was captain of St George at that particular time and within a very short time we became very friendly and one thing led to another and I just mentioned to him one day that I'd love to make a move to Sydney and try my luck at St George.

"As a kid I used to follow St George and it was such a great club.

"And the next minute I knew I was talking to the St George committee.

"But I was still of course contracted to Melbourne.

"Actually I was going to go virtually straight after the '67 tour when we came back from Vietnam but the club in Melbourne wouldn't release me, they wouldn't give me a clearance because again we won the championship, we won the Australia Cup and they wanted to hold the team together.

"So they really put the brakes on it for a year.

"They said you're not going anywhere and then finally at the end of '68 I just made it quite clear

basically how that move came about.

"It was an ambition that I had and to be honest with you I was only going to go for two years to see what it was like to play.

"Look, everyone's ambition back in those days was to play in Sydney because the standard was much higher than what it was in Melbourne and I thought I'd try for two years and it turned out to be twenty years.

"It was such a great club it was just unbelievable."

GS: St George assembled one of the best club sides ever.

AA: "Actually we were talking about it down there in Melbourne.

"We had six or seven boys from St George at the reunion so there was always members who

were Australian representatives.

"I mean people like Manfred Schaefer, Johnny Warren, Jimmy Fraser, Harry Williams, myself, Adrian Alston, Bobby Hogg, so we always had quite a few

would chant St George.

AA: "Yeah one in particular I'll never forget we played against a team (that had) Yashin the goalkeeper, the great Lev Yashin that played for Russia for so many years and probably regarded as the best goalkeeper ever.

"Dynamo Moscow came out here I think it was in 1969, in fact my first year in Sydney and Frank Arok's first year in Sydney as well, and he had the New South Wales team and we had nine St George players playing that night.

"The two exceptions were Ray Baartz and John Watkiss and that was a case of come on St George (laughing) not New South Wales."

GS: How did you find Frank Arok as a coach?

AA: "Brilliant".

GS: People often say he was a few years before his time in that early period in Australia.

AA: "He was.

"And you must remember that he was only thirty six when he came out here in '69.

breath of fresh air to Australian soccer.

"And he was by far the best ever put it this way.

"I mean he has had his knocks and I know a lot of people don't like him, but players who have played under him and know him I'm sure they will have the same opinion.

"He was absolutely marvellous.

"Plus he had a good team and if you got the right team too it makes it a lot easier.

"But Frank was Frank. He was a total professional and he wanted the best.

"The time that he had St George we always won something."

GS: You also played under Mike Johnson at St George.

AA: "Yes he was there in '73 and half of '74."

GS: How did you find him as a coach?

AA: "Well he was an entirely different person, different personalities.

"When you talk about a coach you're also talking about his personality, his

different person.

"He didn't have the experience.

"I mean Mike Johnson had clubs, I am not knocking it but he had clubs like Sutherland in the second division whereas Frank Arok had European first division experience behind him so it's very hard to compare it."

GS: The 1973 World Cup campaign how did you find that? You struggled a little bit to gain a regular starting spot.

AA: "Well I did but that's something I really can't answer."

GS: Was it your form?

AA: "No, I don't think so.

"You've got to respect that Rale was the coach and he picks the team and its entirely up to him.

"If he doesn't pick you, of course you don't like it

but there's nothing you can do about it.

"Like you said I wasn't a regular, I came on or came off in nearly all the games but I wasn't a regular.

"Now whether he saw there was something

much?

AA: "Well of course it did.

"Let's face it no player likes to be taken off and no player likes to be left out of a team - I don't care what level you play at.

"If you are dropped whether its cricket or anything else if you're not selected you don't like it but what can you do?

"Of course, I was devastated thinking back to those days and I know looking back at it I can say whatever I like but I know I was absolutely devastated lots of times.

"I felt that I should have been playing but again everybody has that opinion of themselves and to be honest with you

when you're not playing you always think you're the one who should be playing.

"Why did he drop me, somebody else is not doing what I think I can do and so its always the same vicious circle, but of course I was devastated but what can you do."

GS: By the end of the '73 qualifying series you had managed to hold down a regular starting spot.

AA: "I came back fully for the game against Indonesia.

"I think it was six nil and I scored two goals and I had a fairly good game.

"The only way to answer Rale is to sort of prove him wrong.

"As a professional, well semi professional player, that was the only way to deal with that to come back and hold your spot.

"It was a brilliant team and it wasn't easy getting into the team as a permanent player.

"You weren't always guaranteed a place in the team.

"It was a very, very good squad."

GS: But you were in the team for the final three qualifiers against Korea that got us to the World Cup.

AA: "Yes and two against Iran."



Three Legends: Peter Wilson, and Adrian Alston celebrating with Oattie Abonyi

that look my ambition was still to play in Sydney to play for St George and you just got to let me go or I don't know what.

"And they did so that's

internationals."

GS: And I also hear that at some Australian games at the Sydney Sportsground the crowd

"He was full of aggression, a lot of ambition, he had a lot of European experience behind him even though he was only young and he brought a

temperament, his knowledge, his background, his whatever and Frank Arok and Mike Johnson had two different personalities, so he was an entirely

wrong or he preferred somebody else I just had to accept it and get on with it."

GS: Did it bother you too

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MAY 1999

Four sides taking Premier League shape

SOCCER in Illawarra is starting to take shape – even with only five rounds played.

Despite the rain affected Round 5 schedule being decimated the title contenders are already starting to show their hand.

Chris Agno's Olympic are very definitely championship material this season while Coniston Lions, Kemblawarra and Bulli are the others in contention. But Port Kembla, rated by many as an outstanding chance, are back in the race after

dropping their opening two games. A storming comeback last weekend against White Eagles sees them in the Top 4.

This Saturday Port Kembla travels to Ocean Park where it faces newly promoted Woonona.

Despite Woonona's 3-0 win over Fernhill this should be an easy win if Adrian Alston's side is to become a serious challenger.

Olympic play Fernhill at home in what should be another certain three pointer.

Wolfgang Makowski surprised many in the

Illawarra soccer fraternity when he left White Eagles immediately after taking them to last year's championship. But he has come up trumps with new club Coniston.

The Lions have a tough game at Figtree against Lysaghts.

Bulli, the other likely contender at this early stage, play last season's league premiers Cringila Lions at Ball's paddock.

Peter Beggs has forged a side which few will beat easily this season and his midfield could make them the surprise packet of the season.



Port Kembla defender Robert Cazzoli

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Future NSL stars in the ranks at Corrimal Rangers

JUNIOR soccer is thriving in Illawarra. It is in a healthy state with up to eight thousand kids playing either schools or registered club soccer on the weekends.

Illawarra clubs have a zoning system in operation which, in the main, sees juniors playing with the clubs in their own area.

One of the traditional clubs in the ISA is Corrimal Junior Soccer Club.

Formed in 1953, the Rangers play their home games at Memorial Park Number 2, just outside the main ground which is now home to Northern United.

Corrimal Rangers have teams in all age group from Roo Ball to Under 15 and are heavily backed by local businesses.

"The business support in Corrimal has been fabulous," says club official Harry Mustafa. "This is a local club and it is important that we maintain those links with the local business commu-

nity. And although we are, like all junior clubs, looking to save dollars wherever we can we try and buy all of our equipment locally."

Mustafa coaches the club's Under 11B side and thinks that there might even be a potential NSL player somewhere in the club's ranks.

"Scott Chipperfield was a junior at this club," he says, "and over the last half century we have produced many fine players."

Maybe names like Jamie Quinn, Blake Lewis, Cohen Johnson, Luke van Mouwerik and Steven Uglov are only those of players in the ranks of the club's various youth teams – but in the future they could well be wearing the red and white of the Wollongong Wolves like Scott Chipperfield.

Future plans at Memorial Park include the building of a new club house to replace the temporary buildings which have been on site for some years now.

Agno Gets Coach Award

CHRIS Agno has received the inaugural Illawarra Coach of the Month award.

In his first season at Wollongong Olympic, Agno got April off to a flier with four straight wins, scoring 11 goals and only conceding 3 along the way.

Olympic have taken the lead at the top of the Premier League as a result.

The award is sponsored by the Hellenic Club in Figtree.

A Coach of the Year award will also be made at the end of the season.

Agno was presented with his award at a recent Wollongong Wolves NSL match.

Shells Mascot

Shellharbour City Soccer Club has launched its home games mascot competition.

Under 14-year-olds are invited to lead the club's teams onto the field.

Each mascot, who will be dressed in club colours, will receive a brand new soccer ball.

Shellharbour also has its own web site: www.ozemail.com.au/~jcalder.

ICU First Division Preview

NEXT weekend sees Picton host Balgownie. Both teams have picked up points recently and a draw might be the result – but favour the home team.

Dapto take on Albion Park at their home ground of Kanahooka Lodge.

Form should see the home side through but they cannot underestimate the visitors.

At Kooloobong Oval University take on Kiama and the seashiders might just get the points.

The students, however, are capable of causing any side problems.

Another tough game is at Elizabeth Park where Bellambi play Shellharbour City.

Bellambi have signed a lot of new players but this will be a hard game for both sides.

At Ulster Avenue in Warilla the home side Illawarra United play South Coast United.

Both sides are at the wrong end of the table even although they both shown a slight recent improvement.

Helensburgh Thistle

ILLAWARRA NEWS BRIEFS

with thanks to Otto Bader



Port Kembla's star defender Robert Cazzoli

have dropped vital points in recent games but this game still looks a lot harder than visiting Western Suburbs might think.

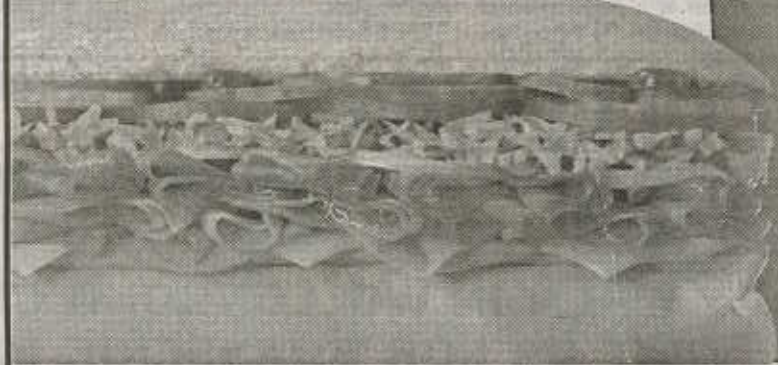
Warilla Wanderers must win their game at King Mickey Park against Berkeley if they don't want to lose touch with the competition leaders.

Highlands United are still unpredictable and their home match at Renwick Oval against Barbarians could be a close game also.

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Breakaway league back as a talking point

by Bruce Campbell

IN SOME places the perennial subject is whether the Grand Final should be scrapped and a first past the post league introduced, in others it is whether reserve grade should be replaced with youth grade.

On the coast at Wollongong the big perennial, which pops up every season almost like a late blooming flower, is the subject of a breakaway league.

It won't come, therefore, as a shock to local fans that it is back on the agenda again.

It popped up again towards the end of last year but after a brief flicker it seemed to die as a serious topic.

This year's bloom, it would seem, is a much stronger strain.

Over the last few weeks it has been quite a topic in and around the Corimal offices of *Inside Soccer*.

It might seem that the current legal case involving the ISA and Wollongong White Eagles is the catalyst but it doesn't seem so.

"There are a lot of clubs in the area who aren't totally satisfied with what is happening at the present," said a source.

"Sure the subject comes up every now and again but this time it is definitely strong.

"The big question that most people in Illawarra ask is why



Korey Babbington: the talented Cringila Lions youngster is on loan to NSW Super League club Macarthur Rams

tion because there doesn't seem to be any future direction."

ISA officials would argue strongly against that statement and as president Norm Flana-

AGM.

"It isn't quite as easy as that," we were told.

"There are four or five very strong clubs in this area, then there are another

leagues run in two divisions; a Premier League and a Conference League which incorporates the first and second divisions and runs on a system which is more or less home and away.

The Premier league has twelve teams while the Conference has 17.

There is also a Wollongong District League but there is no direct promotion and relegation from that league which is run on an amateur basis.

Suggestions made by some are that there are just too many club in the Premier League and with grounds in the northern part of the region at a premium there seems to be a case to support the

complaint.

Currently Premier League clubs must have their own enclosed ground which may not be shared by another club or another code.

That means that the grounds are only used for about 15 days a year, cup games included.

"The rule regarding grounds is ridiculous," we were told.

"Four of the clubs are in an area which is scarcely separated by more than a couple of miles.

"Bulli, Northern United, Woonona and Fernhill are all just too close.

"And Kemblawarra and Port

Kembla are only separated by a highway.

"Yet last season both Dapto and Helensburgh were relegated and they represent areas which are now isolated from top level soccer.

"There needs to be some kind of a zoning recognition which would allow clubs to develop their bases with strong support from the various junior clubs.

"At present we are all scrambling for the same sponsorship dollars and admission money and it is just getting harder and harder."

Added to the economic reality is the fact that some Illawarra clubs are spending top dollar on player match payments.

Last season there were reports of NSL guest players on \$1,000 a match while other imports from other leagues were getting as much as \$750.

At a few clubs even standard match payments are in the region of \$300.

But with a shrinking capital target market the fears are that some clubs will go to the wall.

And, at least with some prominent local identities, the fear is that it will be the ambitious clubs who will ultimately suffer.

"The league needs to cut free from the smaller clubs," *Inside Soccer* was told.

"The Premier League needs to be reduced to a maximum of eight clubs even if three rounds are played.

"Our season shouldn't dovetail into the NSL season, we need to stand as a viable alternative on our own right.

"Maybe the breakaway won't happen but unless something is done then it will always be an option."

And, like the hardy perennial, it is assured of a seasonal showing.

"Why spend a hundred thousand dollars or so to be involved in a competition where the tail wags the dog?"

spend a hundred thousand dollars or so to be involved in a competition where the tail wags the dog?

"There isn't any incentive for doing well in ISA compe-

gan has continually told *Inside Soccer*, they are only following the wishes of the clubs and if that isn't what the clubs want then they should change things at the association's

couple who fall into the middle ground but the majority rests with the others.

"And they don't want change."

Currently the semi pro

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Player dissent, board room rumbling and stay away crowds – you might just say that for the Wolves it is a season very definitely

NOT MADE IN HEAVEN

IT seemed that the 1998/99 Ericsson Cup season would herald a new era for the Wollongong City Wolves. Finally they had shaken off the struggle town image with a bold and exciting brand of football that had the rest of Australia talking.

Coach Nick Theodorakopoulos was hailed as one of a new brand of young coaches who would be the future of the Wolves and the sport itself.

Even David Hill liked Wollongong, holding them up as an example of just what a good cosmopolitan club could achieve.

With the administration now in the hands of a consortium of businessmen it seemed that the Wolves could only go one way; up.

That was true – although the direction was wrong.

Instead they went down, almost all the way to the bottom and only kept of the basement by the flailing Melbourne Knights and Canberra Cosmos.

That the Cosmos beat them at Bruce Stadium would be no cause for joy either.

On the park the Wolves just lost too many good players; Tony Perinich, Neil Harlock, Michael Reda, Brett Hughes and Sonny Sevin all moved on for one reason or another.

With some, like Hughes, it was said to be a clash with the coach while with the others it was just a case of dollars.

For despite the massive financial input of a consortium led by local stockbroker Doug Symes the truth was that that injection was gobbled up by past debts.

Some consortium members even claimed that they were misled.

Coach Theodorakopoulos persisted with goalkeeper Leslie Pogliacomi even though he was advised by others to do



Alvin Ceccoli: the club's best player was sent overseas on a paltry \$50,000 loan fee

otherwise.

In the end, and when it was all too late, in came the equally inexperienced Daniel Beltrame.

However, unlike his predecessor, he doesn't seem to be hesitant in coming off his line.

Neither keeper is a patch on Hughes although Beltrame represents a solid future prospect.

During the season the Wolves also lost two players, Kosta Salapasidis and Alvin Ceccoli to overseas clubs.

Clearly Salapasidis had his mind on anything but football at Brandon Park and in the end the Wollongong side was lucky to get one million plus for a player who was struggling to hold his place in the side.

Ceccoli was a different matter.

He was the defender who oozed class and his loan transfer opened up a defence which just leaked goals.

But the biggest loss to the team was his attacking forays down the flank.

Rows with other players during the season also affected performances and stories of players being sent home from training hit the daily local press.

Rumour abounded that Scott Chipperfield was on his way from as early as Round 1.

After returning from Soccer duty he rarely produced the kind of form which has had his name linked with Northern Spirit and Carlton since day one.

Coach Nick Theodorakopoulos denied that the transfer of Tony Perinich was a loss to his club but all season he

LAST season the Wolves made the play offs; this season they didn't. Last season the crowds packed Brandon Park, including a club record attendance at the Top 6 match against Adelaide City. So what has gone wrong with a side that was the once one of the jewels in David Hill's brave new direction for Aussie soccer.

Inside Soccer editor BRUCE CAMPBELL takes a stab at some of the answers.

chopped and changed his striker formation using a galaxy of different players.

Big off-season buy Michael Brooks was a major disappointment until the final weeks of the season when he showed some of his true form.

But, being constantly substituted and having his position changed, it is little surprise that the former Adelaide City player didn't click.

Brooks came to Wollongong to score goals and in the end it seemed that he was pleased just to get his name on the teamsheet.

Yet in pre-season the Wolves had the answer in a trialist from Port Kembla.

Paul Roberts is the kind of midfielder who could have sat in besides Brooks and allowed

him to get forward.

But the blond Canberran wasn't wanted and instead he moved on to the Cosmos where he became their best player.

It is maybe poetic justice that the arrival of Roberts at the Cosmos, along with that of coach Tommy Sermanni and defender Gordon Hunter, saw their season blossom.

The enigmatic Fijian Esala Masi was also a case of a player who just couldn't get a regular start.

Yet in Masi the Wolves possess a player with an explosive shot and the ability to turn a match with a flick.

That he missed more

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18


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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17



Paul Roberts: a midfield solution?

chances than he scored might have something to do with the amount of time he spent warming his backside on the bench.

A hefty hike in ticket prices caused a lot of resentment with local fans and allied to an indifferent early season form it conspired to keep crowds down.

With the total absence of atmosphere created by a half empty grand stand the crowds went in a downhill spiral, jolted only by the visits of Northern Spirit and Sydney

Olympic.

Although the official attendance figure was generally posted in the usual three thousand mark often there were less than five hundred paying spectators at Brandon Park.

A publicity campaign which seemed to be aimed at the 'new market' area which David Hill speaks so often about was a huge flop.

It is maybe the club's dismal performance in regards to marketing which is the saddest about Wollongong's season.

Amateur, spasmodic and

low key are all words and phrases that spring to mind when thinking of a campaign which if it existed was transparent in the extreme.

In truth the club needs at least 8,000 spectators to be viable and a successful Wolves are capable of attracting that.

Yet the opening round of the ISA Premier League season outdrew the Wollongong home crowd.

With over 5,000 people at the last Illawarra Premier League Grand Final it would appear that the solution to the lack of the crowds lies with

the local football supporters – yet they are the ones who are staying away.

The current season, now just a bitter and dim memory for the club, still has traces of dissatisfaction.

Prominent consortium member Joe Cachia has stepped down from the board.

Instead he, along with other consortium members, has bought an interest in a soccer ground at Lysaghts.

They also have a million dollar plus grandstand which they are ready to install.

That could have gone to Brandon Park but with the current problems and the

NSW State Government's refusal to extend the Wolves lease it seems that further changes are in the offing.

The dropping of club icon Matt Horsley during the season sure as hell hasn't given the locals much to shout about either.

For many, Horsley IS the Wolves.

His axing was only brief and he has reinstalled himself with some terrific performances.

That at least represents some hope for next season.

Brooks will also be better for the experience and should he be given a permanent role may yet prove to be an in-

spired signing.

He certainly has the talent.

The likelihood is that the club will lose at least four of its current squad with Chipperfield almost certainly having played his last game in a red shirt.

The league needs Wollongong, of that there is no doubt. So does the region because it is the flagship to which all youngsters should aspire.

But the Wolves themselves can't afford another season like last.

For their marketing section the hard work should be starting today – they have a lot of ground to catch up on.



Every picture tells a story: the near empty grandstand at Brandon Park

ILLAWARRA CREDIT UNION BIG MATCH UPDATE



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ILLAWARRA CREDIT UNION PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 6

Saturday 8 May

Bulli v Cringila Lions

Balls Paddock

Woonona v Port Kembla

Ocean Park

Wollongong White Eagles v Kemblawarra

Brandon Park

Olympic v Fernhill

Brandon Park No.2

Sunday 9 May

Shoalhaven City v Northern United

Ison Park, South Nowra

Lysaghts v Coniston Lions

Figtree Recreation Ground

MATCH OF
THE
ROUND

RAIN and stormy weather decimated Round 5 of the Illawarra Credit Union Premier League last weekend with only four games played and heavy water affecting the others.

Maybe the surprise result of the round was Woonona's 3-0 thumping of Fernhill.

The loss sees Fernhill on bottom spot and looking like an early season favourite for the drop into Conference League.

Blake Montgomery, Gareth Gardiner and Steve Hanlon scored the goals for the home side on a very heavy pitch.

But Woonona remain in the basement along with Shoalhaven City who were on the end of a three goal drubbing by Coniston.

Already these three teams are grouping together in what

looks to be the relegation dog-fight zone.

In another match where the conditions reigned rather than football, Northern United beat Bulli 2-0, a loss which sends the Bulls out of the Top 4.

Peter O'Neill and Jamie Closs scored the goals in a game which should probably have not been played.

After the match the Memorial Park pitch was heavily cut up and ground staff have a major task getting it ready for further soccer.

Wollongong White Eagles looked to have put their court room dramas behind them for the day when they went into an early lead against Port Kembla at Wetherall Park.

Richard Machado headed home a free kick after 35 minutes but after that it was mostly Port Kembla.

That ninth minute opener was soon equalised when Frank Barila went on a weaving run through the Eagles defence.

After beating three players he drove home a hard and low shot.

New signing Nick Polimenakos put Port in front with a header and then Barila, who supplied his team-mate's goal with a superb cross, got his second in a goalmouth scramble.

Port Kembla got its fourth in the late stages of the game when some superb passing left Mineo Bonetig on the end to score inside the box.

The pleasing aspect for Port Kembla is that it won this match in second gear and although Adrian Alston's side needs to improve it has the capability to do just that.



The Oz Fans' Perspective

PO Box 117, Bentleigh Vic 3204

Inside Soccer wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Kylie Tomislav and John Punshon in compiling the Ottie Abonyi interview.

A LOOK INTO THE DIZZY WORLD OF THE INTERNET AS FOOTBALL ROCKS THE NET

THE Internet is one of the biggest communications revolutions since the invention of the fax machine.

However, it is also one of the most frustrating.

While soccer fans have an absolute phantasma of knowledge and goodies in front of them there are problems.

Number one is just the sheer cost.

Internet service providers vary greatly in charging structures and the unsuspecting or novice should really sound out some good advice before taking the ultimate step.

Some providers charge as much as \$5 per hour while others have extra slugs for the amount of material downloaded or sent.

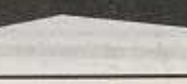
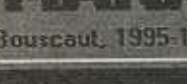
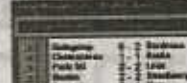
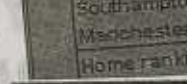
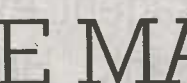
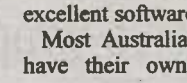
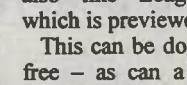
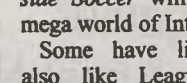
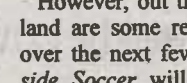
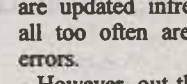
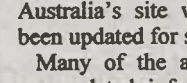
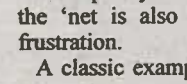
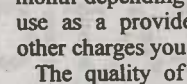
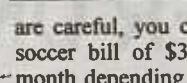
Cyberelectric in Wollongong provide an excellent service at super rates and if you are in that area you should take the time to speak to them.

They also offer a very good on-line back-up service which is extremely important - especially if you rely on the 'net for business.

Inside Soccer has used Cyberelectric from day one and doesn't hesitate to recommend them although there are many other good providers in Australia.

Many Internet sites also charge a monthly fee for accessing their material and before you know it, unless you

SOCCER INDEX



are careful, you could have a soccer bill of \$300 plus per month depending on who you use as a provider and what other charges you pay.

The quality of material on the 'net is also a source of frustration.

A classic example is Soccer Australia's site which hasn't been updated for several years.

Many of the amateur sites are updated infrequently and all too often are laden with errors.

However, out there in cyber land are some real gems and over the next few months Inside Soccer will explore the mega world of Internet sites.

Some have little goodies also like League Manager which is previewed here.

This can be downloaded for free - as can a lot of other excellent software and games.

Most Australian NSL clubs have their own sites while

there are also a myriad of mushrooming 'unofficial' sites and even chat lines.

The best site in Australia is the OzSoccer web site.

This is a real beauty and the mummy, daddy and three bears for all Australian web browsers.

A huge library of information is available covering all facets of the game.

It is also a great site to start your browsing from.

Use the links to take you to other sites, bookmarking the ones you like along the way.

That is probably the easiest way to search for a particular site as it leads to other sites which you are likely to have an interest in, assuming that the first site you visited was what you are looking after.

Search engines can be frustrating also, throwing up hundreds upon hundreds of potential sites.

After spending hours and hours going through defunct and exceptionally poor sites I fine tuned my own studies to just going through links.

A final word of warning; be careful - many sites post large volumes of incorrect or incomplete data which is then copied by other sites.

My tip; start at Oz Soccer and then use their recommended links.

This feature will be a regular part of Inside Soccer, appearing every two weeks.

If you have site information or want to post your own recommendations please do so.

Over the next few months we shall also build up the directory of Australian soccer sites which we have started off with some of the NSL club sites.

Stuart Bell

INSIDE SOCCER INTERNET DIRECTORY THE BEST

www.ozsoccer@thehub.com.au

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE CLUBS

Adelaide City

www.zebras.com.au

Adelaide Sharks

Brisbane Strikers

www.brisbane-strikers.com

Canberra Cosmos

www.novell.com.au/~cosmos

Carlton

www.carltonsoccer.com.au

Gippsland Falcons

www.gippslandfalcons.com.au

Marconi Fairfield

www.marconiifc.com

Newcastle Breakers

www.breakers.com.au

Northern Spirit

www.northernspirit.com.au

Perth Glory

www.perthglory.com.au

South Melbourne

www.southmelbournesc.com.au

Sydney Olympic

Sydney United

www.sydneynited.com.au

Wollongong Wolves

www.illawarra.net.au/wolves

NEXT ISSUE: some State League sites plus some very interesting overseas sites.

Add you own site to our directory by sending your details to Inside Soccer.

REVIEW LEAGUE MANAGER

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League Manager 2.05 can be downloaded from the following site.

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NSW SUPER LEAGUE BIG MATCH UPDATE

Berries Roll Stutters at Pluim Park

by Patrick Galloway

THE damp and secluded Pluim Park was the venue last Saturday night for this encounter between fifth placed Canterbury Marrickville and Central Coast, a side lingering at the bottom of the NSW Super League Ladder due to some relatively poor form.

Having not won or drawn a single encounter over their past five matches the Coasties went out in search of a victory to end their point scoring drought, which hadn't been helped over the past couple of weeks due to some recently postponed matches.

It was, in fact, a strong possibility that the match would have been postponed due to the inclement weather that had been plaguing the Central Coast over the past week.

However, it was un-

the majority of the match, with Central Coast managing to muscle their opposition off the ball both in the air and on the ground.

With the park continuing to deteriorate it became increasingly difficult for the Berries to find their way towards Central Coast goalkeeper Steve Angelov and with the scores locked at 0 - 0 at the break, the Pluim park faithful were appearing a little more confident.

In the 68th minute, their confidence was converted on to the scoreboard with Peter Preston firing home what many thought could well have been the winner, considering the difficult conditions in which the match was played.

It was an inspired Coasties outfit that took the field in the second period, no doubt after a



Leichhardt Tigers Chris Landsdown

CENTRAL COAST 1 (Preston)
CANTERBURY (Illie)
Venue: Pluim Park

doubtedly an informed decision by Central Coast management.

With the pitch being considerably chopped up in preceding Under 18s and Under 21s matches, Central Coast's hard running, very physical game would undoubtedly be complimented with a wet and heavy pitch, while the two-touch ball playing style that Canterbury Marrickville have become renowned for would almost certainly be adversely affected.

This was the case for

subtle reminder that this was a game in which they most definitely needed points.

Canterbury Marrickville were in no position to be resting on their laurels this season, and in the final minutes pushed themselves forward leaving an experienced Steve Tolios between the posts to keep them in the game on numerous occasions.

In the 80th minute Zoran Illie's experience showed as he slotted home the equaliser to provide some relief for

Berries coach John Xipolitas, who would have undoubtedly been happy with getting a

point away from home considering the circumstances.

The result stands as a reminder to the Berries that things aren't as easy as they seem when up against the sides lingering at the bottom of the Super League ladder.

This isn't the first time that Canterbury Marrickville have lost points that they should have by no means let slip.

A poor effort against Eastern Suburbs some weeks ago where the Berries went down 3 - 1 was

a perfect example of what just may be the Berries achilles heel.

The answer for the Berries may well lie with Sydney Olympic's Chris Kalantzis, who has recently signed with Canterbury Marrickville for the remainder of the Super League season.

He begins training with the club in two weeks time.

SUPER League Round 14 provided the fans with the usual mixture of shock results and great performances.

Despite the wet weather leading up to the weekend the only game lost

was the Eastern Suburbs and Ryde City clash, scheduled to be played at Wentworth Park.

The weekend kicked off on Friday night when Blacktown City Demons and the Fairfield Bulls met in a Round 10 rescheduled clash.

The clever money had to be on the Demons considering their good form and the Bulls' 6-0 thrashing by Bonnyrigg the week before, but two goals in the second half saw the Bulls come away from the Gabbie Stadium with all three points.

The surprises continued on Saturday as Leichhardt went to Lynwood

Park and defeated the Macarthur Rams 1-0.

It was a late goal that sunk the Rams, substitute Hassan Kdouh making all the difference.

On Sunday, Fairfield entertained Bankstown City Lions, who have had a lean time recently.

Once again, after defeating Blacktown one would have expected the Bulls to take this one, but two goals by Mendo Lozevski sealed a 2-1 win for the visitors.

It was always going to be a tough one to call at Melita Stadium, as leaders Bonnyrigg were in great form but Parramatta had a superb home rec-

ord. Super League leading scorer Colin Luff netted another hat-trick to take his tally for the season to 16, but Parramatta shared their goals out - five to be precise.

Goalscorers were Grant Bard (2), Saso Boskovski, Sasha Utjesenovic and Adam Anderson.

Sutherland Sharks entertained Blacktown on Sunday, and the Demons made amends for their defeat to Fairfield by winning 2-0.

Blacktown missed a host of first half chances, and were grateful to Steve Riches and a special from Peter Sermanni to wrap up the points.

NSW DIVISION 1 ROUND-UP

Trposki fires three

by Paul Goodwin

TEENAGE sensation Goce Trposki returned to his old club Rockdale, after a brief absence since last season while he has been playing with the Sydney United youth team.

The scorer of over 40 goals for Rockdale during his Under 18 season as a junior who has spent 9 years with the club, he was a first grade regular last term.

He came off the bench on Sunday against Hurstville City Minotaurs to turn the game for his side with a hat trick inside 20 minutes, the first of his goals coming 30 seconds after taking the field.

The derby match was

the game which deserved to be featured following the wash out of the St George v Manly-Warringah game next door.

No such problems at Rockdale where the pitch was in fine fettle.

The Hurstville side looked dangerous throughout the game, but conceded a goal against the run of play in the 25th minute when another teenager, Bill Petrovski, drilled the ball past George Beardmore after Andrew McHardy had nodded down a cross from Peter Apolevski.

Fourteen minutes later Hurstville were level again when Nick Knithakis volleyed in from close range after the de-

fence failed to clear a cross effectively.

Spase Najdoski had a shot blocked in the 66th minute and substitute Trposki immediately snatched his chance to put his side ahead once more.

When Hurstville defenders failed to make a headed clearance count in the 82nd there was Trposki to win the ball in the air and slot home from a tricky angle.

A glancing header from another Najdoski cross completed the scoring for the side coached by Gerry Gomez, for a 4-1 win, only their third of the season.

Elsewhere Penrith beat A C United 7-1, aided by the visitors having two

men sent off, the first of them moments before the break.

Danny Hinton, fresh from his New Caledonian success with the NSW representative side, scored the first two and went on to claim a hat-trick.

Moorebank picked up welcome point in a 1-1 draw at home to Bathurst and Auburn beat Dulwich Hill 3-1, with Huseyin Bayhan scoring twice on his return from suspension.

Illawarra Lions won 2-1 at Stanmore's Arlington Oval to show their liking for the ground on which they had already beaten Dulwich Hill earlier this season.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 9

Wednesday 5th May

Eastern Suburbs v Macarthur Rams
Seymour Shaw Field, 8:15pm

ROUND 15

Saturday 8th May

Central Coast v Blacktown City Demons
Pluim Park, 6:00pm

Sunday 9th May

Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Eastern Suburbs
Serbian Centre, 3:00pm

Bankstown City Lions v Parramatta Eagles
Jensen Park, 3:00pm

Canterbury Marrickville v Fairfield Bulls
Henson Park, 3:00pm

Ryde City v Macarthur Rams

Wentworth Park 3:00pm

Leichhardt Tigers v Sutherland Sharks
Lambert Park, 3:00pm

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Panthers Crushed in WSL

Northern NSW beat Nepean Panthers 3-0 in the NSW WSL round six match at Turner Park, Cessnock on Sunday after leading 2-0 at half-time.

The match originally set down for Jack McLaughlan Oval was transferred to Turner Park after Jack McLaughlan Oval was ruled out due to the wet weather.

Rachael Alley had Northern NSW on the way to victory in the first minute of play when she cleaned up an Amber Neilson shot that was parried away to the right by the Nepean Panthers goalkeeper.

Katie Gill scored the first of her two goals five minutes before the break when Julie King sent her on her way into the penalty area with a well timed pass. Gill struck the ball from about 10 metres out into the roof of the net.

In the 49th minute Hayley Crawford worked down the right flank beating several defenders and chipped the ball into the penalty area where Gill was on hand to head home her second goal of the match and ensure Northern NSW secured the three points.

Reserve grade won 4-0 over the Panthers when they led 1-0 at the break after Kerin Duncan scored from outside the penalty area.

Aimie Neilson (52 minute) and Rose Dunne (59 minute) adding superb goals to ensure the young northerners had the game in the bag, but the Panthers in desperation gave a way a penalty in the 63rd minute that Megan Shepherd coolly slotted home.

"I was pleased with both grades today," Northern NSW women's head coach Mark Jones said.

"We knocked the ball around well and kept possession and we have two mighty young teams.

"Today we had our two most senior and experienced players in Sunni Hughes and Kristy Palozzi out injured, everyone in first grade was under-18 and they all played well above their age."

NSW Women's Soccer League (WSL) round six at Turner Park, Cessnock.

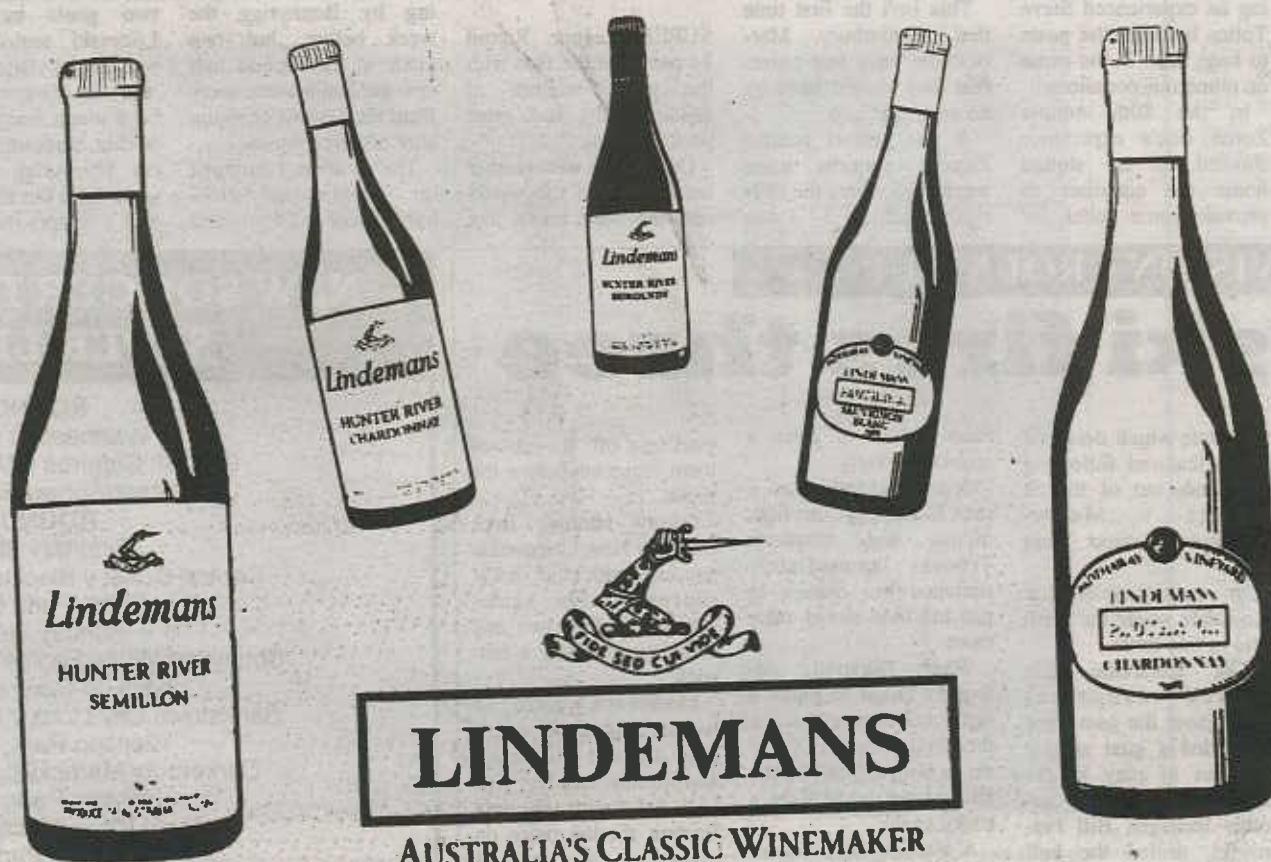
Results: First Grade: Northern NSW 3 (R Alley 1m, K Gill 40m, 49m) beat Nepean Panthers 0.

Reserve Grade: Northern NSW 4 (K Duncan 12m, A Neilson 52m, R Dunne 59m, M Shepherd 63m) beat Nepean Panthers 0.



BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES And FAIRFIELD BULLS clash in a recent NSW Super League match. Both sides are strong contenders for honours this season. White Eagles will be featured in a special NSW supplement in the next issue of *Inside Soccer* - Australia's favourite soccer publication.

Photo by Carlos Furtardo



VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE UPDATE

Top three set to fight for title

by Bert van Bedaf

GREEN Gully maintained the pressure on leader Port Melbourne with a 1-0 victory away to St Albans, setting up a tense race for the championship in the second half of the Victorian Premier League season.

Halfway, after 13 rounds, the Sharks, Green Gully and Preston are the front runners, with the Melbourne Raiders chance outsiders for the championship, which is decided without finals.

The top team after the home-and-away rounds wins the championship this season.

Bentleigh Greens and a resurgent Fawkner are ten points off the pace and will need to make up a lot of ground to stake a claim.

At the bottom, Sunshine's fate seems sealed.

With four clubs going down, the Georgies will need a miracle to escape relegation.

Westvale, Springvale White Eagles and South Dandenong complete the rear, but St Albans and title defender Bulleen are by no means safe.

Green Gully coach Ian Dobson believes the title will be decided by the clubs now occupying the top three spots.

"Had it been a finals situation, obviously it would have been a different scenario," he said.

"But as it runs now it will be a three-horse race between Port Melbourne, Preston and us.

"Fawkner are getting their act together and the Melbourne Raiders are doing very well at this stage of the season, but I don't think they're good enough to win the league."

Dobson described his team's close win over the Saints as "hard-fought".

"We knew it would be a battle," he added.

"It was a hard-fought win.

"We're still in the proc-

ess of putting things together, but I'm pleased where we're at.

"Defensively we're doing a lot better, but our attacking qualities aren't good enough," Dobson said.

The result proved Dobson's observations.

Twice in the first half St Albans were close to scoring, but the Gully defence stood firm.

Goalkeeper Robert Brian just got his hand to a low shot from Saints striker Harry Karl after only three minutes and a Karl cross in the 22nd minute found Kon Sianidis, who glanced wide under pressure.

The Cavaliers lost Jani Suric with a hamstring injury in the second minute, giving Zlatko Donev another chance to show his striking abilities.

Donev turned provider in the 40th minute, putting Nick Papadopoulos through on the left.

With keeper Marijan Vunderl to beat, Papado-

poulos aimed wide of the far post.

It was up to man-of-the-match Zoran Markovski to come out of defence and score the only and winning goal for Green Gully.

The former Melbourne Knights defender, who had been playing a vital part in the backline, ventured forth in the 60th minute, taking on three defenders.

With some deft footwork, the burly stopper played himself free inside

the box, letting fly with a vicious ball that hit Vunderl on the arm before finding the net.

Karl came close to equalising in the 78th minute, but his diving header, from a Slavko Rados cross, was just wide of the far post.

St Albans coach Vid Horvat realised how close the Saints are from relegation.

"With four teams going down, we are in a dangerous situation," he said.

"But we should be in

good shape for the second half."

IN OTHER results Springvale White Eagles and Altona East drew 3-3, while Fawkner defeated Altona Magic 2-0.

Last week, to complete round 12, Melbourne Raiders beat St Albans 1-0 and Green Gully drew 0-0 with Altona Magic.

IN ROUND 14, Bulleen visits South Dandenong on Saturday night.

On Sunday, the Saints

are at home against a confident Fawkner.

Altona Magic hosts Bentleigh Greens.

Sunshine is again at home fighting for a point against Altona East.

The Springvale White Eagles will find the going tough when Preston visits them.

On Monday night, the Melbourne Raiders face Green Gully at Epping, while Westvale will struggle against Port Melbourne.

Title defender in strife

by Bert van Bedaf

VPL TITLE holder Bulleen Inter Kings are in strife after losing 4-0 to leader Port Melbourne.

Instead of staging a successful title defence, the Kings are closer to the relegation zone.

Speculation is rife Gary Cole, who coached the Kings to the title last season, may be parting company with the Kings, who have not won a match in seven weeks, to be succeeded by former Green Gully and Altona Magic coach Chris Taylor.

Against the Sharks, the Kings had striker Danny Gnjdic sent off in the first

half when already a goal down.

They were two goals down at half-time.

Gnjdic remonstrated with referee Perry Mur over a free-kick he believed he should have been given.

Mur gave him a yellow card instead.

Gnjdic continued his complaint, receiving a second yellow, which earned him a sending-off.

Charismatic forward Eric Hollingsworth has returned from Canberra, where he works as an athletics coach at the Australian Institute of Sport, in a bid to bolster Bulleen's fading fortunes and lined-up for the first time against the Sharks.

Bulleen president Peter Balassone acknowledged the gravity of the situation.

"It's a bad result, too bad to be true," he said.

"We got the stuffing knocked out of us today."

But he remained coy over the coaching job.

"We haven't discussed it," he said.

"We'll have to have a chat with Gary (Cole).

"He's not getting results.

"With the team we have, we should have better results. It is virtually the same team we won the championship with last season.

"This is too long a bad run," Balassone said.

He said the club had not spoken with Taylor.



Green Gully keeper Robert Brian - still rated the best in Victoria

Sunshine sticks with player-coach

by Bert van Bedaf

THE Sunshine Georgies were last in the national league in 1991, but they're now almost certainly headed for a stint in the State league next season.

With only eight points halfway into the Victorian Premier League, Sunshine will need to

turn its fortunes full circle - which looks to be beyond them.

Against Bentleigh Greens at home, the Georgies were brushed aside 3-0 by one of their former players Juan Nilo, who scored a hat-trick against his old club.

"The boys are trying, but they don't get any further than outside the

penalty area. They get brushed aside too easily," Sunshine spokesman Victor Brincat said.

The situation is so morale sapping that player-coach John Kanesoulis offered to step aside. But there's no-one to take his place.

"John is still our coach," Brincat said.

"He offered to step

aside, if there was anyone who could do better.

"He said things in the heat of the moment.

"It is a very difficult situation and it becomes easy to say, 'I quit'.

"But he's still here. Escaping relegation is our aim at the moment.

"We'll fight 'til the end, until there's no more hope."

VPL match in Bendigo

GREEN Gully will bring its round 16 home match against Fawkner forward from Monday to Saturday night and play the match in Bendigo.

The match will be played at the Tom Floods Sports Centre on Saturday, May 22, at 6pm.

Gully president Charles Farrugia said the club wanted to promote premier league soccer in the country and had chosen Bendigo because of its obvious links with the region.

"Former Gully players like Darren Scoble come from Bendigo," Farrugia said.

"We're giving a home match away, but we believe the benefits for the club and the league are far greater."

ACT Women's Soccer

by Anya Whitelaw

KIM Channing has scored three goals for the ACT Academy of Sport side to help them to a 4-0 victory over Canberra City in the first round of normal competition.

After finishing runners-up in the pre-season competition, City did not have the legs to stick with the younger Academy players who dominated possession.

Academy had most of the play in the first half with Katrina Staniforth leading several raids down the left flank.

The Academy keeper, Amy Beattie, was forced to deflect the ball over the crossbar from one City corner, but was otherwise untroubled.

The Academy side finally capitalised on their possession one minute out from half time, Channing slotting in a cross past City keeper Michelle Tifan.

The opening minutes of the second half saw Academy assert their authority.

Claire Madden scored off a Channing pass in the second minute, with Channing herself scoring five minutes later.

The final goal of Channing's hat-trick came 10 minutes out from full-time, Academy scoring a convincing 4-0 win over City.

In other matches Weston Creek down Tuggeranong 3-2, and Belconnen United had an easy 5-0 win over Burns Brindabella.

ACT Federation Cup

by Greg Welsh

CANBERRA Olympic produced their best performance of the season to upset Belconnen United 4-1 in the first semi-final of the Federation Cup at Greenway Oval on Wednesday night.

Belconnen, boasting the likes of Jason Dunn and Marko Perinovic, won both the Federation Cup and ACT Premier League last year, and prior to this game were undefeated in 1999.

But Olympic tore up the form book by surging to a 2-0 half-time lead, from which Belconnen were always going to find it difficult to recover.

The game was only six minutes old when Takis Arvinis' long ball found Njegosh Popovich inside the penalty area.

Popovich was sandwiched by two Belconnen defenders, and referee Ben Williams pointed immediately to the penalty spot.

Belconnen 'keeper Rade Kuzmanovic dived to his right and managed to get both hands on the ball, but the force of Arvinis' left-foot kick proved enough to bring up an early 1-0 lead.

Just over half-an-hour later, an Olympic free-kick just outside the penalty area sent Belconnen further behind.

Elliott Zwangobani laid off the ball to Geoff Howarth, whose powerful shot cannoned off the Belconnen wall and pasta despairing Kuzmanovic.

Belconnen pulled back a goal eight minutes after half-time.

Olympic 'keeper Angelo Konstantinou dived to block Matt Whyte's shot, but the ball ricocheted into one of his own defenders before trickling to Perinovic who accepted the gift gratefully.

Olympic struck back ten minutes later with two goals inside 90 seconds.

The first came from a Howarth in-swinging corner, which Njegosh Popovich headed home powerfully from close range.

The goal of the game came directly after.

Robert Grande's delightful through ball to the pacy Elia Salloum neatly bisected the Belconnen defence, and Salloum slotted the ball past an advancing Kuzmanovic to seemingly put the game beyond doubt.

However, Belconnen's reputation is not for nothing, and in the last 30 minutes they created enough goal-scoring opportunities to win four games of football.

But it seemed that luck and composure had deserted them on this evening.

Olympic coach Baz Giampaolo later praised an all-around good effort from his team.

"Robert Grande got through a mountain of work," he said.

"Elia [Salloum] and Geoff [Howarth] give us quite a bit of pace on the flanks, especially as the game wears on ... [but] the main aspect tonight was to eliminate the errors at the back.

"This has probably been one of the biggest changes formation-wise and player-wise ... since the season started, and hopefully this will give us the basis of a fairly reasonable team."

Olympic will face the winner of next week's Monaro-Deakin clash in the final.

NZ hero cheated death

by Jason Marocchi

JOHN Adshead was just a right turn away from death. Driving home from a training session at a private school in New Zealand, Adshead was feeling his chest tightening up.

As the right turn-off to get home drew nearer perhaps fate played its hand.

A traffic hold up in the right hand lane forced Adshead to turn left and drive past the hospital, where he complained of chest pains to one of the nurses.

Then a blackout. John Adshead was dead.

After being brought back to life by doctors Adshead underwent surgery and spent 11 days in intensive care.

Adshead is adamant that had he went home that day, he would no longer be with us.

"If I made that right turn home there would be no doubt that I wouldn't be here today," he said.

Now the man who led New Zealand to the 1982 World Cup finals finds himself back amongst family in Perth.

Adshead lived in Perth during the seventies and

has his mother, son and daughter all living there.

Adshead worked for the soccer federation in Western Australia from 1970-76, coaching various states sides against visiting international teams and taking Tricolore to a couple of league titles.

He went to New Zealand in 1976 and took the All Whites to Spain in 1982 before getting the sack in 1983.

Since then Adshead has been working on and off with the Football Association in New Zealand.

blinkers and worry only about their self importance.

"When change is mentioned people fight it and the game is suffering tremendously because of it."

A job with Floreat Athena as junior coordinator means that Adshead is not totally out of the game, but his involvement with soccer in Perth might just take the next step up.

Floreat sacked coach Jimmy Dunne just two games into the season, and the club looked to Adshead to take over the reigns.

Adshead is only in a

"I still don't know many of the players," he said.

"And we were missing three players from our back four so I'm not too concerned."

Floreat have recruited well this season, bringing in Scott Halpin and Abdul Kamara from Fremantle, Shane McNally from Inglewood and Scott Clisold from Joondalup.

The club was runner-up in the night series but has struggled in its first three fixtures, winning only one.

"There is good product down here," Adshead said.

"There are some problems with fitness but that can be sorted out within

Venables in Auckland during the World Cup Qualifiers and I told him he had the best job in the world.

"I would love to have the job."

Adshead said Australia was very unlucky against Iran and that victory in that match would have cemented the game in this country.

"I am convinced Australia will make the next World Cup, no matter who the coach is," he said.

Adshead said he would be happy to settle down in Perth if he found something he enjoyed

John Adshead was dead. After being brought back to life by doctors he underwent surgery and spent 11 days in intensive care. Now he is in a caretaker role with Floreat Athena.

Adshead said he was disappointed at the state of soccer in Western Australia on his return.

"Football always seems to miss the boat and its not just over here, it's worldwide," he said.

"People put on their

caretaker role at the moment, but negotiations have begun to try and secure his services for the season.

The coaching role didn't get off to a good start with a 5-2 loss to Joondalup, but Adshead said the result meant very little.

four to six weeks.

"If we are not too far off the pace I think we can give the league a real shake after that."

Adshead believes soccer in Australia is in a tremendous position.

"The potential is immense," he said.

"I caught up with Terry

doing.

"I'm back over here semi-retired", he said.

"I've tried to be relaxed and laid back to get over my condition but I get bored very easily.

"This place is terrific and if I can find something to do here I would love to stay."

Joondalup join WA top

by Jason Marocchi

FOUR sides are tied at the top of the Soccer West Coast Premier League after ECU Joondalup defeated Fremantle City 3-1 on Sunday.

Goals from Joe Kelly, Carl McDarby and Shaun Fallon set up the victory over the previously unbeaten Fremantle side.

Joondalup, Fremantle, defending champion Western Knights and night series winners Sorrento are all on nine points after four rounds, with Sorrento leading the pack on goal difference.

The Knights bounced back from last week's league and cup double loss by hammering Kingsway Olympic 5-0.

Kingsway, who defeated the Knights in the cup last Monday, were no match for the champions with Ray Marinovic, Paul McVittie, Eugene Singorzan, Trim Morgan and Scott Devine all finding the back of the net.

At Macedonia Park Ross Greer's hat-trick lead Sorrento to a 6-1 win over the Stirling Li-

ons.

Simon Harland scored two and Trevor Morgan grabbed the other.

Newly promoted Ashfield-Bunbury caused the upset of the day defeating Perth 1-0 at Ashfield Reserve. A 20th minute strike by Sasha Garic was enough to get the three points for the home side.

Ashfield-Bunbury have

now won two games on the trot and are making their presence felt among the competition heavyweights.

In other results Glory striker Vas Kalogeracos scored for Bayswater in their 1-1 draw with Floreat Athena and Cockburn City and Inglewood Falcons played out a 1-1 draw.

MY TEAM

IF YOU would like your junior team featured here just send a current photograph to the address on page 3 - and include names of the players in the photograph.



PARRAMATTA EAGLES UNDER 11S

ACT BIG MATCH UPDATE

OLYMPIC STRUGGLE
TO BEAT UNIVERSITY

by Nick Guoth
in the National Capital

Canberra Olympic was just too good in the end for University of Canberra in a disappointing game, Olympic winning 3-1.

In fact, of the two teams, University probably played some for the better football for most of the game as Olympic were trying to shake off the cobwebs following Wednesday night's Cup game.

The students started stronger and were given an early opportunity which was well put away.

A lax pass in defence went across the park to Dominic Bartone, who from 20m out picked his spot to send a cracking drive past Angelo Konstantinou.

Olympic tried valiantly to get back into the game, but their play in the final third lacked desire and hence their finishing was just on the good side of woeful.

University were trapping at all opportunities

and thus Olympic could not play the style of football we expect from them.

Playmaker, Alex Castro, was closed down at every opportunity mainly by the midfield duo of Steve Howe and Andrew Wilson.

It took a good half an hour for Olympic to break through.

Elli Salloum strode down the right hand side, and just after he cut in to

the box, sent a solid drive that 'keeper Chris Freeman could only parry away.

The ball fell to Geoff Howarth who finished with style.

Salloum was guilty of spurning a number of chances, mainly after crosses from the left easily beat the defenders.

Still, sturn, defending from the likes of Scott Anderson and Josh Carmichael helped keep the scoreline to one-each at the break.

In fact a Njegosh Popovic shot from close range just on half-time caused Freeman to parry again, and when the ball fell to Salloum his shot wasn't strong enough to get past Carmichael as he saved a sure score with a goalline clearance.

Immediately after the break Olympic had a great chance to break the tie.

Geoff Howarth sent a low cross through the penalty area, but no forward was able to get a foot to the ball.

Five minutes later it was Uni's turn.

A delicate move by Simon Foxhill beat his defender on the right.

He sent a pin-point cross and Bartone's header was well saved by Konstantinou.

Then fifteen minutes in, a corner from the right by Howarth was met by Peter Mazis at the near post.

He flicked the ball up and Alex Castro, from 8m out, sent a looping header that beat Freeman

and the defenders.

The game then settled down with both sides holding out well.

Rarely were the forwards able to dominate, Alex Tsiokis and Mazis very solid for Olympic holding out the fiery and fast Foxhill.

A few minutes from the end, another corner for Olympic, and this time substitute Pino Seminara sent the ball to the far post for Castro to head in his second of the day and complete the scoring.

Uni had one more chance to pull a goal back in the dying seconds.

Dominic Bartone sent a cracking free-kick towards goal and it needed Konstantinou to tip the ball over the bar.

Baz Giampaolo for Olympic was not too pleased with his team's performance.

"We struggled all day and didn't play anything like Wednesday night," the coach said.

"We were taking too long to put the ball forward, too indirect and gave them ample time to get behind the ball."

For University, Rod Lynes was pleased with the effort, but obviously not the result.

"We didn't do ourselves justice and deserved to get something out of this game," he said.

"The boys put in a good effort, except for the fact that we gave away goals from set pieces once again."

BELCONNEN United pulled up their socks from their thrashing last Wednesday night to walkover Burns Club by the tune of 7-0.

Matt Whyte scored the first, a dipping shot that came off the bar, while Stuart Camara potted the second when he collected the ball just inside his own half, played a 1-2 and slotted home from close range.

After the break Bels continued the scoring.

First a long throw from Adrian Dowling was headed on by Marko Perinovic and in a goal-mouth scramble Jason Dunn sent a rocket that bulged the roof of the net.

Next it was Darren Fuller's turn.

A solid run by a teammate saw the ball layed off for him to finish well.

Then a bit later he went around a defender on the edge of the six yard box and made no mistake from that distance.

Finally Matt Whyte piled on two more to secure his hat trick.

Craig Unwin came in from wide out to the penalty box.

His low cross was easily slotted home by Whyte.

Then a Lee Pietrukowski shot was too hot to handle for the 'keeper and Whyte finished off the rebound.

Even though seven goals went passed the Burn's 'keeper Matt Malgaard, he provided a fine game pulling off a num-

ber of good saves.

Things weren't helped for Burns when stalwart Peter Thompson, making his comeback from injury, could not make it past 15 minutes of the game.

Bels coach Lino Fiorese stated: "we did quite well. We knocked the ball around and kept our shape well."

"Our wide boys got behind the defenders and our back three got a lot

more involved."

AT O'Connor Oval Queanbeyan City Lions showed a lot more spirit than during past games when they went down 1-5 to Capital City Suns.

Tony Lemezina notched a second half hat trick.

David Stambolziev scored one and the final goal was an own goal.

Danny Gjorgievski scored one of two penalty

attempts by Queanbeyan, Tony Giannasca saving the other.

Queanbeyan City made a game of it for the first hour, but it wasn't too long before the Suns were able to get on top.

City have made some good pick ups recently which should help build a foundation for the team.

Cosmos defender Danny Burt and ex-Joey Goran Veljanovski both played well.

Billy's Juventus
get it together

By Greg Welsh

Gungahlin Juventus shook off their disappointing early-season form to record a convincing 2-0 win over Canberra Deakin at Deakin Oval on Sunday.

Two losses and a draw in their opening rounds had Juventus languishing in second-last place prior to this game, and they badly

needed a win against a Deakin outfit that has struggled to score goals.

Deakin seemed to have the run of the game early in the first half, and elusive wing-back Anthony Rakic caused plenty of headaches for Juventus sweeper Oscar Zamora and his defence.

However, it was Juventus striker George Cattanach who came nearest to troubling the scorers in the first half.

Somewhat against the run of play, Cattanach collected a loose ball just outside the

Deakin penalty area, turned neatly and released a thunderbolt of a drive.

Deakin 'keeper Pedro Pavez could only stand and watch as the ball struck his right-hand upright and rebounded to safety.

The near-miss seemed to enliven the Juventus team, and by mid-way through the second-half they were clearly the more dominant side although the scoreboard still showed a deadlock.

The introduction of Juventus striker Bradley Smith in the 67th minute provided the knock-out punch for the away team.

Soon after coming on, Smith was on hand to pounce on a rare mistake by Deakin sweeper Joseph Skrtic and power a cracking shot past Pavez in the Deakin goal.

Eight minutes later the goal-scorer turned provider as Smith's pass released Cattanach into the Deakin penalty box.

Cattanach notched up the goal he thoroughly deserved with a sweetly-timed left-foot shot past the advancing Pavez.

Juventus coach Billy Willox was justifiably proud of his team's performance.

"I thought we played really well," Willox said.

"We played a controlled game. They had a couple of chances but I think we played the football."

"I'm really pleased for the guys more than anything."

"We really needed a boost."

Willox praised the performance of Smith up-front, and sounded out a warning to the rest of the competition.

"It's starting to come now. They've been working hard, every one of them, since the start of the season."

"Sometimes you need a wee bit of luck, but I think there wasn't any luck today, I think we deserved to win."

Tine Double
Saves Monaro

BY DYLAN DURIE

SECOND half goals from substitute Alex Tine enabled Monaro to snatch a 2-2 draw in their ACT Premier League soccer game against Weston Creek at Riverside Oval.

Tine came on with his team trailing two-nil and half an hour left but he pulled Monaro back into the game with a wonder strike in the 65th minute, chipping the keeper from 25 metres with his first touch after running onto a Danny Macor through ball. Tine's second came 10 minutes from full time after a sustained attack from Monaro resulted in a glancing header from a cross by Macor finding



Weston Creek's Steve Lazzari: scored again

its way into the goal.

Weston Creek had deserved their two goal advantage after dominating the first two-thirds of the match, taking the lead

from a Martin Lazzari free kick in the 22nd minute, a powerful low shot that slammed into the net at the far post.

Steve Lazzari scored

Weston Creek's second in the 59th minute, breaking through the last line of defence after a swift counter attack and rounding the keeper to slide the ball home.

Tim Dale then missed a simple opportunity to put the game beyond doubt but was unable to hit the target from two metres after a header from a corner rebounded off the cross bar into his lap.

While both coaches accepted a draw was a fair result, Weston Creek boss Jimmy Bland had more to be thankful for after losing key players to injury in the second half and having to play the final few minutes a man short.



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Joeys off to World Cup flier in Fiji

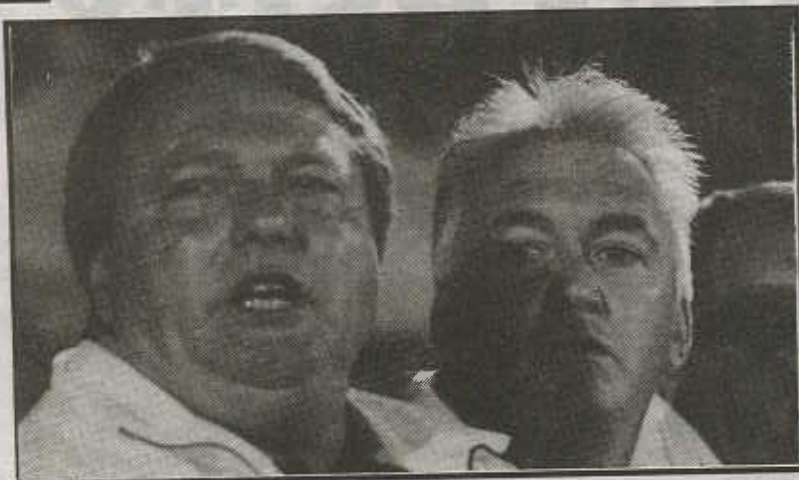
by Inside Soccer's
Special Correspondent

THE Australian Under-17 soccer team made a positive start to the Oceania qualifying tournament with a 2-1 victory over host nation Fiji on Saturday.

The Joeys, who need to win the tournament in order to progress on the path to the junior World Cup later this year, went down a goal in the 20th minute when defender Mark Byrnes conceded a penalty which was converted.

The Joeys hit back shortly after halftime however, with Adelaide City's Louis Brain heading the ball into the back of the net from a rebound after the initial shot from Scott McDonald was parried by the goalkeeper onto the cross-bar.

A double substitution



Under 17s boss Les Scheinflug: happy with star after opening win against Fiji

by coach Les Scheinflug three minutes later saw the introduction of Werder Bremen youngster Joe Di Iorio, who was to provide Australia's winner with his first touch.

Di Iorio broke through the defence to take a shot

from just inside the box and hit the back of the net in the 53rd minute, to put Australia one up in the first of its five group matches.

"Mark Byrnes played very solidly and I would say he was best on ground, despite the fact

that he gave away a penalty," Scheinflug said after the game.

"Other boys to play well were Radoslav Culibrk at right wingback, who had a very solid game, as did Wayne Srhoj, and Lucas Pantelis in the second half.

"Overall, the team played very well considering the extremely muddy conditions, and I think the nerves of an opening game also played a part in their slow start.

"I believe they will

improve tremendously though.

"It's very hot and humid, they've never been in conditions quite like

this before but they played a very good second half."

Scheinflug will now keep a close eye on the

squad's recovery with Australia's next game against Papua New Guinea on Monday (as we went to press).

Australia's draw:

WON 2-1

Sat 1 May	v Fiji
Mon 3 May	v Papua New Guinea
Wed 5 May	v Cook Islands
Fri 7 May	v American Samoa
Mon 10 May	v Vanuatu
Wed 12 May	Winner Pool 1 v Runner-up Pool 2
	Winner Pool 2 v Runner-up Pool 1
Fri 14 May	3rd/4th place play-off
	Final

Australian Under-17s Squad for the OFC Under-17 Qualifiers in Fiji

#	NAME	AGE	D-O-B	POS	CLUB
1.	MILOSEVIC Matthew	16	29.10.82	GK	SASI (Australia)
2.	CULIBRK Radoslav	16	14.07.82	DF	Springvale White Eagles
3.	CANDELL-SHERRIFF Shane	16	10.11.82	DF	NSWIS
4.	GOULDING Aaron	16	29.04.82	DF	SASI
5.	LAURIE Steven	16	13.10.82	DF	West Ham (ENG)
6.	BYRNES Mark	17	08.02.82	DF	NSWIS
7.	NORTH Jade	17	07.01.82	MF	AIS/Brisbane Strikers
8.	BRAIN Louis	16	09.05.82	ST	Adelaide City
9.	DI IORIO Joseph	17	08.04.82	ST	Werder Bremen (GER)
10.	PANTELOS Lucas	17	12.03.82	MF	AIS
11.	McDONALD Scott	15	21.08.83	ST	VIS/Gippsland Falcons
12.	LOCKHART Shane	16	26.09.82	DF	NSWIS
13.	SRHOJ Wayne	17	23.03.82	MF	AIS/Brisbane Strikers
14.	JOHNSON James	16	21.05.82	MF	QAS
15.	DOUMANIS Anthony	17	01.02.82	MF	NSWIS
16.	LETTIERI Fabian	16	07.09.82	MF	Werder Bremen (GER)
17.	MacALLISTER Dylan	16	17.05.82	ST	NSWIS
18.	KEDWELL-VANSTRATTAN Jess	16	19.07.82	GK	NSWIS
19.	FYFE Iain	17	03.04.82	DF	SASI
20.	SARIC Mislav	15	03.09.83	MF	SASI

OCEANIA UNDER-17S QUALIFYING CHAMPIONSHIP - Fiji

AUSTRALIA 2 (L Brain 50, J Di Iorio 53)

FIJI 1 (Rodu Ratu Marika 20 pen)

AUSTRALIA: Matthew Milosevic; Radoslav Culibrk, Shane Cansdell-Sherriff, Aaron Goulding, Mark Byrnes, Shane Lockhart, Jade North (Joe Di Iorio 53), Wayne Srhoj, Lucas Pantelis, Louis Brain, Scott McDonald (Dylan MacAllister 53). Coach: Les Scheinflug

Merrick, coaching the best of Victorian kids

by David Arnold

ONE OF Australia's best coaches is content to remain in the background, whilst churning out youth talent to rival the best, and in some cases exceed, the best of what Europe has to offer.

Ernie Merrick, a transplanted Scotsman, can take a well-deserved slice of credit for ensuring that Victorian and Australian players consistently realise their potential.

Now at the Victorian Institute of Sport, Merrick is in the position where he can contribute most effectively towards the development of champion local players.

The names roll off his tongue.

"Great players, let me see, Con Blatsis, Steve Panopoulos, Cuzzupe, Michael Ferrante, Simon Colosimo, Vince Grella," he answers.

Merrick completed his education in Scotland, where he reached semi-professional status, before coming to Australia 25 years ago. He has since built up his reputation and credentials in the coaching field to some extraordinary heights.

A Physical Education teacher, he has attained Levels 1, 2 and 3 and has been recognised by the Australian Coaches Association for his work, winning their annual award.

Merrick initially started his coaching career with school sides, before progressing to the Frankston Pines in the Victorian Premier League.

"I went to Frankston as Assistant Manager, then became the Senior Coach," he says.

That experience led onto bigger things in the NSL with the Preston Lions, an 18 month stint, and Sunshine George Cross. He joined the VIS in 1992 and has been full time since 1995.

His brief is to get the best 14, 15 and 16 year olds in the State and apply them to the latest coaching techniques and sport sciences as developed by the VIS, with nutrition and psychology playing an important part.

The role of the VIS is to produce the best out of young talent, and it's unarguable Merrick has done it.

"We have four players in the Joeys squad in the Fiji (World Under 17



Cup) qualifiers, so we've done well."

That squad did not include Scott MacDonald, the 15-year-old prodigy who has been chased by West Ham and already has NSL experience with

the Gippsland Falcons.

"Scott's scholarship with the VIS expires in May, but we have an offer on the table and we hope he stays," says Merrick.

If it sounds like a chal-

lenge (and labour of love) getting the best out of players, consider the task in persuading them to remain in Australia.

Joey DiOrio, Michael Ferrante and Steve Laurie all received professional

contracts from overseas clubs before getting their Learner's permit.

But come the changing of seasons, Ernie Merrick will be there, and even better, he thinks the players will be there too.

"So many younger players are coming through, I just hope that they can continue to improve."

At the VIS, they have been for the last few years.

The Bill Turner Cup

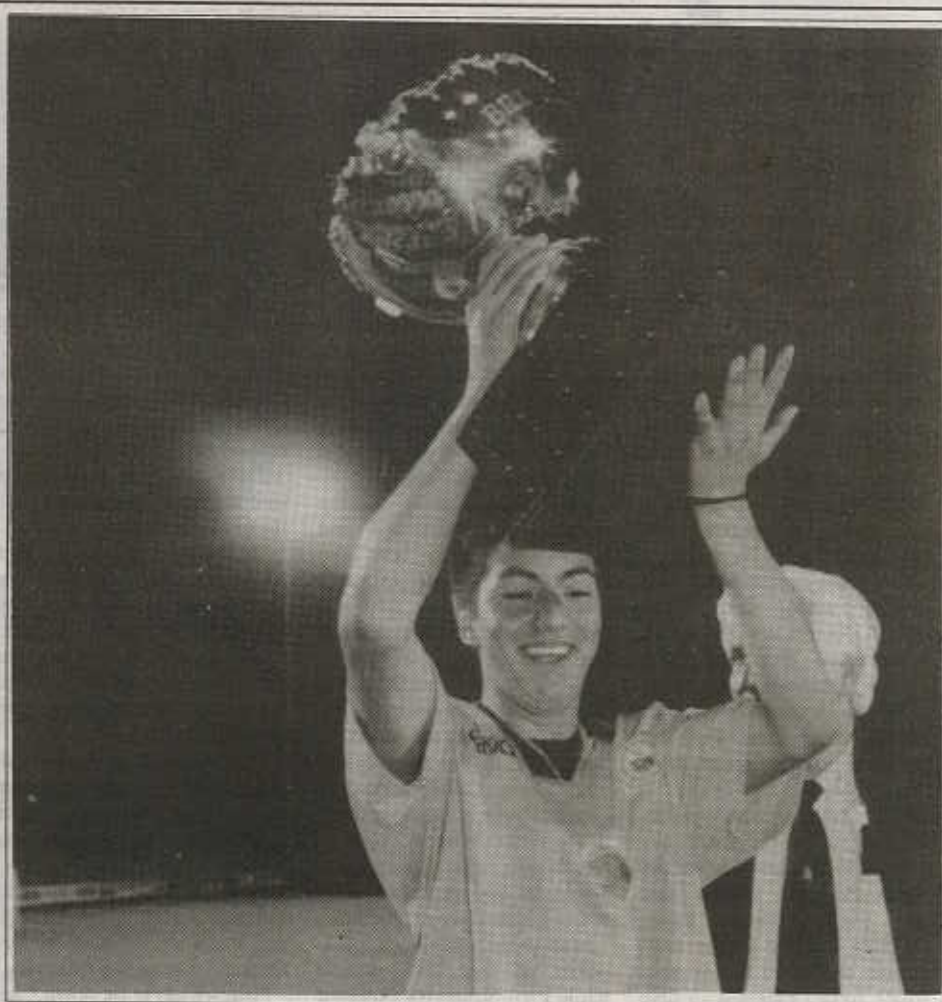
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BELOW: 1998 semi finalists Cavendish Road High School



Victor Fernandez of Westfield Sports High holds aloft the 1998 Bill Turner Cup

YOUR MATCH REPORTS & DETAILS

Inside Soccer invites all participating schools to supply profile stories, match reports and photographs of your exploits in the 1999 Bill Turner Cup. This might be the chance for that budding journalist or photographer at your school to get into print.

Contact details: page 3 Deadlines: Friday 12 noon



TOP: 1998 semi finalists Endeavour Sports High

BELOW: Cavendish Road players receive their medals from Soccer Australia's Jim Selby



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ASICS BIG MATCH UPDATE: NSL TOP SIX SERIES

Defiant Glory keeps finals lid on City

By Hannibal Rossi

PERTH Glory held off a determined blitz from triple national soccer champion Adelaide City to grab a precious 0-0 draw in its first finals appearance at Hindmarsh Stadium on Sunday. Adelaide City showed more adventure with teenage midfielder Nick Sabljak leading the line with a number of penetrating crosses behind the tall Perth defence but could not find the killer finish.

City came closest in the 70th minute when Carl Veart rocked a Perth upright with a fierce drive. But Perth gave the City forwards little room in the penalty area for most of the 90 minutes and held out for their first scoreless draw this season.

The Glory forwards delivered a couple of shots on target to test Soccerroo keeper Jason Petkovic in the first half. Scott Miller cut inside the City defence in the sixth minute and fired a low shot which forced Petkovic to dive to his right to keep it out.

ADELAIDE CITY 0
PERTH GLORY 0

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium

Man of the Match: Milan Ivanovic ADLC

City striker Damian Mori spurned a golden chance in the 10th minute when he beat a hesitant Perth keeper Tony Franken to a bouncing through ball and headed just wide of the empty net.

Perth started with leading scorers Con Boutsianis and John Markovski on the bench but Alistair Edwards fired a 24th minute shot just over the crossbar before midfielder Troy Halpin forced Petkovic to save his 20 metre shot in the 28th minute.

City turned on the attacking heat early in the second half with Carlo Talladira forcing Franken into a fingertip save in the 49th minute.

A minute later, captain Alex Tobin headed goalward only to see Miller clear off the line.

Markovski replaced Edwards in the 73rd minute while Paul Strudwick replaced Michael Garcia in the dying

minutes but Perth kept the lid on any late City raids.

Man-of-the-match Milan Ivanovic and Halpin were the only players cautioned by referee Matthew Breeze.

Perth coach Bernd Stange said the result was a good base for his side but nothing more.

"We started well in the first 15 minutes but then lost our concentration a little and City started running at us," he said.

Stange praised Franken for three crucial saves but said he expected that type of pressure away from home.

"I'm confident we can finish the job in Perth. We've grown stronger in the last six or seven weeks and we have no injuries," said Stange.

City coach Zoran Matic said 0-0 was probably not enough and Perth would start favourite next week in the return leg.

"But we never lie down," he said.



Damian Mori: could have got an early goal but headed wide

THE FUTURE

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COLOURWAYS.

ASICS BIG MATCH UPDATE: NSL TOP SIX SERIES

Injury hit Marconi hold Spirit scoreless in front of finals record crowd

By Ted Simmons

NORTHERN Spirit and Marconi battled a bruising 90 minutes for a scoreless draw before a record crowd in their NSL Top Six elimination match at North Sydney Oval on Friday night.

The first leg of the Ericsson Cup play-off pulled 17,246 fans to the ground with the semi-final to be decided in the second leg at Marconi Stadium on Sunday.

**NORTHERN SPIRIT 0
MARCONI FAIRFIELD 0**
Venue: North Sydney Oval
Man of the Match: Matthew Langdon SPRT

The match was played at a fast pace and referee Eugene Brazzale frequently had to interrupt potential scuffles as players charged into each other.

"It's a long time since I've seen a game so competitive but we're going to have problems getting a team on the park for the return," Marconi coach Frank Farina said.

"It's a deja vu situation from the middle of the season when we suffered badly from injuries."

The first half was a willing battle dominated by the Spirit with three players booked and an early fight broken up by the referee.

It was not a session for faint-hearted tackles as players from both sides fiercely contested each ball.

In the first 60 seconds, Matt Langdon planted the first shot wide in Spirit's opening attack and the referee warned Mark Rudan (Spirit) and Mike Smith (Marconi) as Marconi replied.

"It was a typical semi-final match with lots of aggression and not much football," Spirit coach Graham Arnold said.

"The main thing is that we did not concede a goal and maybe Marconi will play a more open game in the return."

"They came looking for a draw but I'm still pretty happy with our first finals match."

Spirit defender Ian Crook earned the first yellow card in the seventh minute after a heavy tackle on Darren McDonald, with Marconi's Pan Keun Kim and Smith earning the others.

But the session belonged to Langdon who repeatedly broke through on the left side weaving between defenders but

failing to find the net or a team-mate in a position to convert.

Marconi's best chance came early in the half when a Brendan Renaud shot hit the crossbar while Kresimir Marusic briefly raised the Spirit's hopes in the closing minutes before his shot was parried by Marconi keeper Ante Covic.

Marconi produced an all-out attack in the opening of the second-half forcing four successive corners.

The best opportunity of the match came in this period when Marconi substitute Christian Care swung a corner into the penalty area where Dominic Longo's powerful header was cleared off the line by Crook.

Farina had plenty of worries throughout the match as his players required treatment for injuries under the pressure of the elimination match.

"It was a magnificent effort from the team considering I had to reshuffle the line-up every time someone got hurt," he said.

"Longo needed five stitches in a cut above his eye but he finally had to come off."

The second leg of the elimination match will be played on Sunday.



Player/boss: Northern Spirit's Graham Arnold, his side hosted a record preliminary finals crowd

Photo by Carlos Furtardo

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Inside Soccer PAGE 29

SCOREBOARD

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SCHOOLS

BILL TURNER CUP:

Rd 1:	
Asquith Boys High 6	Killara HS 0.
Qlfy rd:	
St Spyridon College 2	St Andrews Cathedral 1.
Rd 1: Oakhill College 4	Normanhurst Boys 0.
Epping Boys 9	St Leos College 0
Parramatta 7	Pendle
Hill 4, Delaney College 2	Our Lady Of Lebanon 2
St Johns Park 4	James Busby 0
St Euphemia 2	Bass 1
Miller 5	Ashcroft 0
Coombah 7	Southport State 1.

COMMONWEALTH BANK CUP

Round 1:	
St Marys 4	Colyton 0
Bowral 6	Goulburn 0
Mulwree 1	Crookwell 0
Lake Illawarra 3-4	Berkeley 3-3
Warilla 4	Kiama 0
Bomaderry 2	Nowra 1
Shoalhaven 4	Ulladulla 1
Kyogle 4	Alstonville 1
Farrer 2	Armistead 1
Shield rd 1:	
Cumberland 4	Muirfield 1
Granville Sth 7	Greystanes 0
Rd 2:	
Baulkham Hills 5	Cumberland 2
Grantham 3	Quakers Hill 2
Northmead 9	Seven Hills 0
Pennant Hills 5	Turrumurra 0
Robert Townson 3	Eagle Vale 0
Ambarvale 6	Ashcroft 0.

ACT

Premier League Division 1:

1st Grade:	
Belconnen United 7	Burns Club 0
Uni of Canberra 1	Canberra Olympic 3
Canberra Deakin 0	Gungahlin Juventus 2
Monaro 2	Weston Creek 2
Capital City Suns 5	Queanbeyan City 1
U23 Grade:	
Belconnen United 3	Burns Club 0
Uni of Canberra 2	Canberra Olympic 2
Canberra Deakin 0	Gungahlin Juventus 0
Monaro 2	Weston Creek 2
Capital City Suns 9	Queanbeyan City 0
U19 Grade:	
Belconnen United 2	Burns Club 1
Uni of Canberra 8	Canberra Olympic 0
Canberra Deakin 0	Gungahlin Juventus 4
Monaro 3	Weston Creek 0
Capital City Suns 1	Queanbeyan City 1

Premier League Division 2:

1st Grade:	
ANU 2	Cooma 3
Sabres FC 2	White Eagles 2
O'Connor Knights 1	Tuggeranong 0
Res Grade:	
ANU 4	Belwest 0
Sabres FC 3	White Eagles 1
O'Connor Knights 2	Tuggeranong 5
State League:	
Division 1:	
Canberra City 3	Southern Spirit 1
ANU 4	Uni of Canberra 2
Burns Club 3	Valley Blues 1
Division 2:	
Belwest 0	Gininderra 3
Canberra City 2	Tuggeranong 1
ANU 1	Uni of Canberra 5
Burns Club 4	Valley Blues 3
Juventus 0	Belconnen 3
Division 3:	
Uni of Canberra 0	ADFA 2
Weston Creek 0	Harmonie 2
Uni of Canberra 2 3	ADFA 1
Tuggeranong 1	ANU 0
Division 4:	
Weston Creek 2	Harmonie 1
Uni of Canberra 3	ANU 2
Uni of Canberra 2 3	ADFA 2
Burns 2	ANU 1
Masters:	
ANU 6	Belwest 2
Uni of Canberra 3	Belconnen United 2
Valley Blues 1	White Eagles 10
Tuggeranong 1	Kambah Old Boys 3
Kambah Rovers 0	Canberra City 0

ERICSSON CUP 1998/99

	home	away	
	TPP W D L F A P W D L F A P	pts	
1 Sydney United	28 14 10 2 1	33 16 14 7 2	5 20 17 58
2 South Melbourne	28 14 12 2 0	30 10 14 5 4	5 20 16 57
3 Perth Glory	28 15 10 2 3	35 14 12 6 3	4 27 23 53
4 Marconi Fairfield	28 14 9 1 4	31 18 14 6 2	6 22 29 48
5 Northern Spirit	28 14 9 2 3	19 10 14 5 2	7 17 25 46
6 Adelaide City	28 14 9 3 1	29 8 14 3 3	8 10 18 45
7 Sydney Olympic	28 14 10 3 2 1	33 13 14 2 4	8 13 23 43
9 Newcastle Breakers	28 14 6 5 3	19 15 14 5 2	7 10 18 40
9 Brisbane Strikers	28 14 7 4 2	24 16 14 4 2	8 17 31 39
10 Wollongong City	28 13 5 5 4	27 22 14 3 3	8 18 30 32
11 Carlton	28 14 7 2 5	32 19 14 2 2	10 15 28 31
12 Melbourne Knights	28 15 7 2 6	23 18 13 1 3	9 9 25 29
13 Adelaide Sharks	28 13 5 4 5	24 18 14 2 2	10 12 28 27
14 Gippsland Falcons	28 14 4 4 6	8 17 13 1 6	7 9 27 25
15 Canberra Cosmos	28 12 3 0 8	10 16 15 1 2	13 11 39 15

St Francis 0	Canberra Deakin
Youth:	
Radford College 1	Belconnen United 5

NEW SOUTH WALES

BLACKTOWN DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

ail: Web Site:
 U/9 Div.1. C.S.I. 1 Blk. Workers 0, Kings Langley 0 Doonside 1, Parklea 6 Rooty Hill RSL 0, Quakers Hill 3 Riv/Schofields 3. Div.2. Blk. Premiers 0 Lourdes 9, Good Shepherd 4 Kings Langley 0, Blk. St.Patrick's 0 Oakville 0, Parklea 4 Prospect 1. Div.3. Eastern Creek 3 Lourdes 1, Blk. Workers 0 Doonside 1, Shalvey 0 Quakers Hill 1, Mt.Druitt Rangers 0 Rooty Hill RSL 8. Div. 4. Parklea 4 Oakville 0, Kings Langley 1 Prospect 3. Div. 5. Seven Hills 1 Parklea 0, Marayong Sport 0 Mt. Druitt Sports 1, Quakers Hill 0 Riv/Schofields 4.
 U/10 Div.1. Quakers Hill 4 Doonside 1, Minchinbury 12 Oakville 0, Parklea 2 Prospect 1. Div.2. Doonside 0 Lourdes 3, Minchinbury 1 Blk. St. Patrick's 0, Parklea 5 Seven Hills 0. Div.3. Plumpton/Oakhurst 0 Kings Langley 0, Shalvey 2 Parklea 8, Quakers Hill 1 Riv/Schofields 5. Div. 4. Eastern Creek 0 Marayong Sport 3, Good Shepherd 4 Rooty Hill RSL 0. Div. 5. Plumpton/Oakhurst 0 Good Shepherd 4, Blk. Premiers 5 Parklea B 1, Parklea A 2 Quakers Hill 1.
 U/11 Div.1. Rooty Hill RSL 1 Doonside 6, Blk. St. Patrick's 6 Blk. Premiers 1, Parklea 5 Prospect 0. Div.2. Rooty Hill RSL 0 Marayong Sport 4, Quakers Hill 0 Mt.Druitt Rangers 1, Kings Langley 2 Riv/Schofields 1. Div.3. Doonside 2 Lourdes 1, Shalvey 2 Rooty Hill RSL 0, Good Shepherd 8 Parklea 0. Div. 4. Blk. Workers 2 Lourdes 6, Blk. St.Patrick's 0 Parklea 2, Seven Hills 12 Prospect 0, Quakers Hill 0 Kings Langley 4.
 U/12 Div.1. Marayong Sport 1 Doonside 2, Blk. St.Patrick's 0 Rooty Hill RSL 2. Div.2. Good Shepherd 1 Lourdes 0, Rooty Hill RSL 3 Kings Langley 2, Parklea 1 Quakers Hill 1. Div.3. Eastern Creek 1 Marayong Sport 2, Plumpton/Oakhurst 3 Riv/Schofields 3. Div. 4. Prospect 1 Minchinbury 1, Quakers Hill 1 Oakville 0, Rooty Hill RSL 0 Parklea 1.
 U/13 Div.1. Blk. St.Patrick's 1 Rooty Hill RSL 6, Kings Langley 5 Doonside 2, Mt.Druitt Rangers 0 Riv/Schofields 7. Div.2. Doonside 1 Blk. Premiers 7, Quakers Hill 4 Plumpton/Oakhurst 0. Div.3. Mt. Druitt Sports 1 Marayong Sport 2, Rooty Hill RSL 2 Good Shepherd 7, Prospect 0 Parklea 0.
 U/14 Div.1. Rooty Hill RSL 6 Blk. St.Patrick's 0, Quakers Hill 2 Seven Hills 3, Prospect 2 Doonside 1. Div.2. Mt.Druitt Sports 1 Lourdes 9, Marayong Sport 1 Blk. Premiers 7. Div.3. Good Shepherd 2 Quakers Hill 3, Shalvey 2 Oakville 8, Rooty Hill RSL 2 Riv/Schofields 0.
 U/15 Div.1. Parklea 3 Good Shepherd 2, Rooty Hill RSL 0 Doonside 5. Div.2. Marayong Sport 3 Kings Langley 4.
 U/16 Div.2. Quakers Hill 3 Prospect 2, Marayong Sport 8 Doonside 1.
 U/17 Div.1. Blk. Workers 0 Parklea 3, Marayong Sport / Oakville 1 Blk. St.Patrick's 2, Lourdes 2 Rooty Hill RSL 0.
 All Age Premier. 1st Grade. Pinar 0 Quakers Hill 3, Blk. Workers 1 Seven Hills 3, Blk. St.Patrick's 1 Marayong Sport 0. Premier Reserves. Pinar 3

Quakers Hill 5, Blk. Workers 3 Seven Hills 0, Blk. St.Patrick's 2 Marayong Sport 3.
 All Age Div.1. 1st Grade Doonside 2 Eastern Creek 1, Riv/Schofields 6 Parklea 1, Rooty Hill RSL 2 Blk. Workers 0, Riv/Schofields 3 Rooty Hill RSL 2.
 2. Div.1 Reserves. Doonside 2 Eastern Creek 2, Riv/Schofields 3 Parklea 0, Rooty Hill RSL 2 Blk. Workers 1, Riv/Schofields 1 Rooty Hill RSL 1.
 All Age Div.2. 1st Grade Blk. Workers/ Marayong Sport 0 Seven Hills 3, Kings Langley 0 Parklea 2, Blk. St.Patrick's 5 Oakville 1. Div.2 Reserves. Blk. Workers / Marayong Sport 5 Seven Hills 0, Kings Langley 1 Parklea 4, Blk. St.Patrick's 4 Oakville 1.
 All Age Div.3. 1st Grade Lourdes / Shalvey 5 Eastern Creek 3, Quakers Hill 2 Good Shepherd 3, Minchinbury 7 Marayong Sport 2, Quakers Hill 3 Minchinbury 0. Div.3 Reserves. Lourdes / Shalvey 0 Eastern Creek 3, Quakers Hill 2 Good Shepherd 3, Minchinbury 2 Marayong Sport 1, Quakers Hill 1 Minchinbury 4.
 U/17-18 Girls Div.1: Plumpton/Oakhurst B 1 Quakers Hill / Marayong Sport 6, C.S.I. 9 Plumpton/Oakhurst A 0, Blk. Workers 0 Rooty Hill RSL 0.
 All Age Ladies Div.2. Parklea 0 Marayong Sport 2, Mt.Druitt Sports 1 Blk. St.Patrick's B 6, Eastern Creek 0 Blk. St.Patrick's A 5

NSW FEDERATION

SUPER LEAGUE:

FIRST GRADE:

Fairfield Bulls 2	Blacktown City 0
Leichhardt Tigers 1	Macarthur Rams 0
Central Coast 1	Canterbury 1
Parramatta Eagles 5	Bonnyrigg W Eagles 3
Bankstown City 2	Fairfield Bulls 1
Eastern Suburbs vs Ryde	City w/o
Blacktown City 2	Sutherland Sharks 0.
UNDER 21:	
Leichhardt Tigers 1	Macarthur Rams 0
Central Coast 4	Canterbury M'ville 0
Parramatta Eagles 4	Bonnyrigg Eagles 2
Fairfield Bulls 3	Bankstown City 3
Eastern Suburbs vs Ryde	City w/o
Blacktown City 5	Sutherland Sharks 0.
UNDER 18:	
Macarthur Rams 2	Leichhardt Tigers 0
Central Coast 3	Canterbury M'ville 0
Parramatta Eagles 5	Bonnyrigg Eagles 0
Bankstown City 2	Fairfield Bulls 1
Eastern Suburbs vs Ryde	City w/o
Blacktown City 3	Sutherland Sharks 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Blacktown City Demons	14	10	1	3	28	13	31
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	14	9	1	4	40	25	28
Fairfield Bulls	14	8	2	4	28	24	26
Macarthur Rams	13	8	1	4	23	14	25
Leichhardt Tigers	14	7	2	5	27	22	23
Parramatta Eagles	13	7	1	5	27	17	22
Canterbury Marrickville	14	6	4	4	21	17	22
Bankstown City Lions	14	6	1	7	28	24	19
Ryde City	13	2	4	7	17	24	10
Central Coast	12	2	2	8	10	29	8
Sutherland Sharks	13	2	2	9	13	34	8
Eastern Suburbs	12	2	1	9	16	35	7

DIVISION ONE:

FIRST GRADE:

St George vs Manly Warringah w/o

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

Northern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
AIS	28	20	7	1	103	19	67
Sydney Olympic	28	20	4	4	89	30	64
Northern Spirit	28	20	2	6	68	24	62
Newcastle Breakers	28	18	5	5	62	29	59
Marconi Fairfield	28	17	5	6	78	26	56
NSWIS	28	17	3	8	69	33	54
Wollongong Wolves	28	17	2	9	85	35	53
QAS	28	15	2	11	72	44	47
Sydney United	28	12	4	12	59	48	40
Marconi Fairfield Colts	28	8	5	15	35	48	29
ACTAS	28	7	3	18	38	73	24
Northern Spirit Colts	28	4	3	21	23	102	15
Sydney Olympic Academy	28	3	5	20	26	99	14
Sydney United Colts	28	4	1	23	29	97	13
Wollongong Wolves Colts	28	1	3	24	15	142	6

Southern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Carlton	24	17	4	3	72	26	55
South Melbourne	22	12	3	7	42	24	39
VIS	21	11	5	5	46	31	38
Gippsland Falcons	23	10	3	10	43	34	33
Melbourne Knights	24	9	3	12	44	53	30
Bulleen Inter Kings	22	8	3	11	29	44	27
Albury Wodonga	22	1	1	20	20	84	4

Illawarra Lions 2	Stanmore Hawks 1
Auburn United 3	Dulwich Hill 1
Rockdale City Suns 4	Hurstville City 1
Moorebank Sports 1	Bathurst '75 1
Penrith Panthers 7	AC United 1
UNDER 21:	
St George vs Manly Warringah w/o	
Stanmore Hawks 1	Illawarra Lions 0
Dulwich Hill 6	Auburn United 4
Rockdale City Suns 3	Hurstville City 0
Moorebank Sports 5	Bathurst '75 0
AC United 3	Penrith Panthers 1
UNDER 18:	
St George vs Manly Warringah w/o	
Stanmore Hawks 4	Illawarra Lions 2
Dulwich Hill 5	Auburn United 1
Rockdale City Suns 2	Hurstville City 0
Moorebank Sports 4	Bathurst '75 3
AC United 4	Penrith Panthers 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Manly Warringah Dolphins	7	6	1	0	25	7	19
Penrith Panthers	7	5	1	1	22	5	16
Stanmore Hawks	8	4	2	2	17	9	14
Illawarra Lions	7	4	1	2	18	12	13
St George Saints	7	3	3	1	11	6	12
Bathurst '75	8	3	3	2	10	10	12
AC United	7	3	2	2	12	13	11
Rockdale City Suns	8	3	0	5	17	19	9
Hurstville City Minotaurs	8	3	0	5	13	19	9
Auburn United	9	3	0	6	15	23	9
Dulwich Hill	9	1	1	7	9	23	4
Moorebank Sports	7	0	2	5	5	28	2

DIVISION TWO:

FIRST GRADE:

Sydney University 5	Sydney District 0
Hurstville ZSC 2	Mt Pritchard 1
Greystanes 2	Belmore Hercules 0
Fraser Park vs Hajduk Wanderers w/o	
Mt Druitt Town 2	Hills United 2
Arncliffe Scots 3	University of NSW 1.

UNDER 21:

Sydney University 2	Sydney District 1
Mt Pritchard 0	Hurstville ZSC 0
Belmore Hercules vs Greystanes w/o	
Fraser Park vs Hajduk Wanderers w/o	
Mt Druitt Town 1	Hills United 0
University of NSW 2	Arncliffe Scots 0

UNDER 18:

Sydney University vs Sydney District w/o	
Mt Pritchard 2	Hurstville ZSC 0
Greystanes 5	Belmore Hercules 1
Fraser Park vs Hajduk Wanderers w/o	
Mt Druitt Town 2	Hills United 2
Arncliffe Scots vs University of NSW w/o.	

DIVISION THREE:

FIRST GRADE:

The Wanderers 2	Colo Colo 1
Trasandinos 4	Western Sydney Lions 3
Hakoah 5	Maroubra United 1
Prospect United 3	White City 3
Parramatta City 2	Gladesville United 1
Camden Tigers 3	Liverpool City 0

SECOND GRADE:

Colo Colo 2	The Wanderers 2
Western Sydney Lions 3	Trasandinos 2
Hakoah 2	Maroubra United 0
Prospect United 1	White City 0
Parramatta City 3	Gladesville United 2

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SCOREBOARD

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Liverpool City 2
DIVISION FOUR:
Nepean District 3
CSI Schofields 3
Prairiewood United 3
Balmain 2
Auburn Star vs Holy Cross Ryde w/o
Granville Greenisland 4
Marrickville vs Eastern Creek Pioneers w/o.
SECOND GRADE:
Nepean District 1
CSI Schofields 3
Springwood 2
Balmain 7
Auburn Star vs Holy Cross Ryde w/o
Granville Greenisland 7
Marrickville vs Eastern Creek Pioneers w/o.
DIVISION FIVE:
FIRST GRADE:
Homenetmen 1
UTS vs Sydney TUSC w/o
Kellyville Kolts 13
Earlwood Herms vs AVA
Kosciusko 2
Liverpool Olympic 1
Liverpool Olympic 7
SECOND GRADE:
Bossy 1
UTS vs Sydney TUSC w/o
Kellyville Kolts 6
Earlwood Herms vs AVA
Lithgow Workmen 4
Liverpool Olympic 5
Sydney Tusc 4

Camden Tigers 2.
Hawkesbury City 0
White Valley 3
Springwood 2
Sydney Crescent Star 1
United Eagles 4
United Eagles 2
Sydney Crescent Star 3

Hawkesbury City 0
White Valley 0
Prairiewood United 2
Sydney Crescent Star 3

Macquarie Sports 2
United w/o
Lithgow Workmen 1
Sydney United Kings 0
Sydney Tusc 3

Homenetmen 1
Macquarie Sports 0
United w/o
Kosciusko 2
Sydney United Kings 1
Liverpool Olympic 0

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE:

FIRST GRADE:
Central Coast vs Sutherland Shire w/o,
Marconi Fairfield 7
NSW INST/Academy 2
UWS Macarthur Rams 2
NSW ITC/Academy 3
SECOND GRADE:
Central Coast vs Sutherland Shire w/o,
Marconi Fairfield 4
Gladesville Ravens 2
UWS Macarthur Rams 3
NSW ITC/Academy 4
WOMENS STATE LEAGUE ONE:

FIRST GRADE:
Bathurst City 1
St George Assoc vs Wollongong Wolves w/o
Roselands 5
Manly Warringah 2
SECOND GRADE:
Eastern Suburbs 3
St George Assoc vs Wollongong Wolves w/o
Roselands 6
Manly Warringah 9
SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE:
UNDER 13:
Leichhardt Tigers 1
Blacktown City 3
Sydney Olympic vs Parramatta Eagles W/O,
Sydney United 1
Macarthur Rams 1
Newcastle Breakers 1
Sutherland Sharks 2
Wollongong Wolves vs Marconi Fairfield W/O
UNDER 14:
Leichhardt Tigers 3
Gladesville Hornsby 1
Sydney Olympic vs Parramatta Eagles W/O
Sydney United 5
Macarthur Rams 1
Newcastle Breakers 3
Eastern Suburbs 1
Wollongong Wolves vs Marconi Fairfield w/o.
UNDER 15:
Leichhardt Tigers 3
Blacktown City 1
Sydney Olympic vs Parramatta Eagles W/O
Sydney United 3
Central Coast 1
Southern Districts 1
Sutherland Sharks 7
Wollongong Wolves vs Marconi Fairfield w/o.
UNDER 16:
Leichhardt Tigers 2
Blacktown City 1
Sydney Olympic vs Parramatta Eagles W/O,
Sydney United 2
Macarthur Rams 3
Newcastle Breakers 5
Sutherland Sharks 7
Wollongong Wolves vs Marconi Fairfield W/O.
DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE:
UNDER 13:
Canterbury M'Ville vs Hills United W/O

Bankstown Assoc vs Fairfield Bulls W/O
St George vs Illawarra Lions W/O,
AC United 3
Rockdale City 1
Canterbury Assoc vs Penrith Panthers W/O
Ryde City 2
Hills United 2
UNDER 14:
Canterbury M'Ville vs Hills United W/O
Bankstown Assoc vs Fairfield Bulls W/O,
St George vs Illawarra Lions W/O,
AC United vs Blacktown Assoc W/O
Stanmore Hawks 3
Canterbury Assoc vs Penrith Panthers W/O
Ryde City 4
Hills United 3
UNDER 15:
Canterbury M'Ville vs Hills United W/O,
Bankstown Assoc vs Fairfield Bulls W/O,
St George vs Illawarra Lions W/O,
AC United vs Blacktown Assoc W/O
Stanmore Hawks 3
Canterbury Assoc vs Penrith Panthers W/O
Ryde City 3
Hills United 4
UNDER 16:
Canterbury M'Ville vs Hills United W/O
Bankstown Assoc vs Fairfield Bulls W/O
St George vs Illawarra Lions W/O,
AC United vs Blacktown Assoc W/O,
Rockdale City 1
Canterbury Assoc vs Penrith Panthers W/O
Ryde City 2
Canterbury Assoc 2
DIVISION TWO:
UNDER 13:
Nepean Assoc 8
Macquarie Sports 1
Granville Assoc 1
Mt Pritchard 5
Mt Druitt Town 0
Hajduk Wanderers 0
UNDER 14:
Nepean Assoc 5
Macquarie Sports 2
Granville Assoc 1
Mt Pritchard 1
CSI Schofields 2
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc 4
Moorebank Sports 0
Hawkesbury 0,
Camden Tigers 0
Parramatta City 1
CSI Schofields 0
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc 0.
Moorebank Sports 0,
Hawkesbury City 1,
Camden Tigers 1
Parramatta City 0
Mt Druitt Town 0,
Hajduk Wanderers 1.

UNDER 15:
Moorebank Sports 2
Macquarie Sports 3
Granville Assoc 5
Mt Pritchard 2
CSI Schofields 3
Hajduk Wanderers 2
UNDER 16:
Nepean Assoc 8
Macquarie Sports 2
Granville Assoc 0
Mt Pritchard 3
Mt Druitt Town 3
Hajduk Wanderers 2
CADET LEAGUE DIVISION ONE:
G/11: Parramatta Eagles 2 bt Bonnyrigg White
Eagles 0, Eastern Suburbs vs Ryde City w/o,
Macarthur Rams 2 vs Leichhardt
Tigers 0, Sydney United 6 bt Parramatta City 0, St
George vs Canterbury
Marrickville w/o. G/12: Eastern Suburbs vs Ryde
City w/o, Macarthur Rams 1
drew Leichhardt Tigers 1, Sydney United 3 bt
Parramatta City 0, St George vs
Canterbury Marrickville w/o. DIVISION TWO:
G/11: CSI Schofields 1 drew Mt
Pritchard 1, Illawarra Lions 1 bt Stanmore Hawks
0, Hajduk Wanderers 1 drew
Hills United 1, Moorebank Sports 3 bt Mt Druitt
Town 0, AC United 4 bt
Hawkesbury City 2, Macquarie Sports 2 bt Penrith
Panthers 0. G/12: CSI
Schofields 4 bt Mt Pritchard 2, Stanmore Hawks 0
drew Illawarra Lions 0,
Hajduk Wanderers 1 drew Hills United 1, Mt
Druitt Town 1 bt Moorebank Sports
0, Hawkesbury 2 drew AC United 2, Penrith Pan-
thers 1 bt Macquarie Sports 0.
AAP es

NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES
NBN SOCCER LEAGUE RESULTS ROUND 6
1ST GRADE
Cessnock Hornets 0
Highfields Azzurri v Edgeworth Eagles postponed
Adamstown Rosebuds v Broadmeadow Magic
postponed
East Maitland 0
Toronto Awaba 3
Weston Workers 6
Hamilton Olympic 4
Weatherex Gunners 2
Belmont Swansea 0

RESERVE GRADE

Cessnock Hornets 0
East Maitland 0
Toronto Awaba 1
Weston Workers 1
UNDER 18'S
Cessnock Hornets 1
East Maitland 1
Toronto Awaba 1
Weston Workers 5
2HD 2ND DIVISION RESULTS ROUND 7
1ST GRADE
Lambton Jaffas 2
Beresfield United 1
Dudley Redhead 3
West Wallsend 7
Budgewoi Budgies 1
Medowie 3
Beresfield 3
RESERVE GRADE
Thornton Park 3
Beresfield United 2
Dudley Redhead 3
West Wallsend 2
Budgewoi Budgies 1
Medowie 1
Beresfield 0
UNDER 19'S
Thornton Park 6
Beresfield United 1
Dudley Redhead 2
West Wallsend 2
Budgewoi Budgies 2
Medowie 3
Beresfield 0
NEW FM SOCCER LEAGUE RESULTS
ROUND 4
UNDER 13'S
Maitland 3
Weston 3
Adamstown 5
Oxley 2
Manning 1
UNDER 14'S
Maitland 1
Weston 0
Adamstown 3
Cessnock 0
Highfields 1
Tingira 1
Wallsend 2
Cardiff 1
Cessnock 3
Highfields 2
Tingira 1
Wallsend 1
Cardiff 1
Cessnock 0
Highfields 6
Tingira 1
Wallsend 0
Cardiff 1
Cessnock 0
Highfields 2
Tingira 0
Wallsend 0
Cardiff 1

NEW FM SOCCER LEAGUE RESULTS

ROUND 4
UNDER 13'S
Maitland 3
Weston 3
Adamstown 5
Oxley 2
Manning 1
UNDER 14'S
Maitland 1
Weston 0
Adamstown 3
Oxley 7
Manning 2
UNDER 15'S
Maitland 2
Weston 0
Adamstown 2
Oxley 4
Manning 5
UNDER 16'S
Maitland 1
Weston 3
Adamstown 0
Oxley 10
Manning 5

Wallsend 1
Cardiff 1
Cessnock 0
Highfields 6
Tingira 1
Wallsend 0
Cardiff 1
Cessnock 0
Highfields 2
Tingira 0
Wallsend 0
Cardiff 1

NSW SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE RESULTS

UNDER 13'S
Southern Districts 0
UNDER 14'S
Southern Districts 2
UNDER 15'S
Southern Districts 1
UNDER 16'S
Southern Districts 1
Newcastle Breakers 1
Newcastle Breakers 3
Newcastle Breakers 1
Newcastle Breakers 5

QUEENSLAND

Queensland Soccer Federation XXXX League Table

Brisane City 2
Gold Coast 5
Bundaberg waves 2
Brisbane Lions 1
Taringa Rovers 2
Mt Gravatt 0
Wynnum 2
Rosedale Rovers 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Rosedale Rovers	12	8	0	4	31	18	24
Brisbane Lions	12	7	2	3	31	20	23
Taringa Rovers	12	5	3	4	20	13	18
Ipswich Knights	10	6	0	4	16	13	18
Brisbane City	12	5	3	4	19	17	18
Gold Coast	11	3	6	2	18	18	15
Bundaberg Waves	12	4	3	5	19	20	15
Wynnum	12	4	2	6	19	25	14
Mt Gravatt	12	3	3	6	20	30	12
Toowoomba Utd	11	1	2	8	8	27	5

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SOCCER WEST COAST

FIRST GRADE
Stirling Lions 1
Ashfield Bunbury 1
Bayswater Panthers 1
Kingsway Olympic 0
Cockburn City 1
RESERVE GRADE
Stirling Lions 2
Ashfield Bunbury 0
Bayswater Panthers 2
Kingsway Olympic 1
Cockburn City 2
UNDER 18 GRADE
Stirling Lions 0
Ashfield Bunbury 2
Bayswater Panthers 2
Kingsway Olympic 4
Cockburn City 1
Sorrento 3
Perth 0
Floreat Athena 1
Western Knights 3
Inglewood Falcons 0
Sorrento 4
Perth 2
Floreat Athena 2
Western Knights 1
Inglewood Falcons 2
Sorrento 3
Perth 2
Floreat Athena 0
Western Knights 2
Inglewood Falcons 3

VICTORIA

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Melbourne 4	13	9	3	1	33	12	30
Springvale 3	13	8	3	2	26	14	27
Sunshine 0	12	8	0	4	27	16	24
Altona Magic 0	12	6	3	3	18	16	21
St Albans 0	13	5	5	3	27	15	20
Bulleen 0	13	6	2	5	21	16	20
Altona East 3	13	4	4	5	15	20	16
Bentleigh 3	13	4	3	6	19	30	15
Fawkner 2	13	3	5	5	16	18	14
Green Gully 1	13	4	2	7	15	20	14
Port Melbourne	12	3	4	5	19	22	13
Green Gully	13	3	4	6	18	23	13
Preston	12	2	4	6	12	25	10
Melbourne Raiders	13	2	2	9	12	31	8
Bentleigh Greens							
Fawkner							
Altona East							
Altona Magic							
Bulleen Inter Kings							
St Albans							
South Dandenong							
Springvale							
Westvale							
Sunshine							

NAT YOUTH LEAGUE

Northern Div:
Elim semi-final:
Northern Spirit 1
Griffiths
Southern Div:
Elim semi-final:
Gippsland Falcons 3
R Puca 2
A Pardo
Prelim semi-final:
Carlton 3
T Ouliaris 2
D Delic
Newcastle Breakers 0
VIS 1
A Mtsiopoulos
South Melbourne 2
P Psonis
own goal

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Friday, April 30, 1999
Northern Spirit 0
Crowd: 17,246
Venue: North Sydney Oval
Referee: Eugene Brazzale
SPRT: P Henderson, I Crook, M Rudan, L Cas-
serly, K Marusic, R Slater, G Arnold, D Watkins
(C Zane 55'), P Bilokapic, M Langdon (A Faria
75'), M Bingley
MARC: A Covic, M Babic (M Phillips 49'), D
Longo, P Kim (C Care 36'), D McDonald, Z
Babic (J Bruni 85'), M Smith, B Farah, F
Awaritefe, B Renaud, R Hooker
Yellow Cards: M Rudan (NS) 8'; P Kim (MF)
28'; M Smith (MF) 31'

Sunday, May 2, 1999
Adelaide City 0
Crowd: 4,500
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Referee: Matthew Breeze
ADLC: J Petkovic, M Ivanovic, A Tobin, C Tal-
ladira, D Mori, C Veart, D Mennillo (M Yates
69'), A Constanzo (T Dodd 80'), B Hassell, D
Terminello, N Sabljak, D Kim
PRTH: T Franken, R Trajkovski, S Miller, G
Circati, J Harnwell, C Deans, G Naven, M Garcia
(P Strudwick 86'), A Edwards (J Markovski 74'),
B Despotovski, T Halpin (C Boutsianis 89')
Yellow Cards: T Halpin (PG) 25'; M Ivanovic
(AC) 77'

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The Back Page

Vidmar's Rangers wins Glasgow derby, and title

By Agencies & Paul Millar

IN A CITY where passions run deeper than the River Clyde two Australians held the key to which trophy cabinet the Scottish league championship ends up in as Celtic and Rangers prepared for yet another Glasgow derby last weekend.

Glasgow Rangers defender Tony Vidmar knew that at some stage on Sunday he would clash shins with Celtic sharpshooter Mark Viduka in an Old Firm game the Parkhead club could not afford to lose.

Vidmar is a regular with Rangers this season starting 32 times and coming off the bench four times.

Viduka is the flavour of the month at Celtic, notching eight goals in nine games.

Celtic, the reigning champion, needed to win on Sunday to keep its slim title hopes intact while a victory for Rangers would see the championship travel to Ibrox.

"It's not over, until it's over," said Vidmar before the match.

Vidmar, like the rest of the city, was on tenterhooks on the countdown to the big game.

Vidmar, who has played in his share of big games, said nothing compared to the atmosphere when the blue half of Glasgow takes on the green side.

"It's the biggest game I've ever played in," Vidmar said, admitting the atmosphere of a Glasgow derby just about smacked you between the eyes.

"It just gets to you in some parts of the

game and you feel the hairs stand up on the back of your neck," he said.

"It's just so loud and deafening that it goes through your body."

The city was once one of the industrial centres of the world with its massive shipyards providing employment for 100,000 men and producing one sixth of the world's ships.

The yards for a century owned the men of the city from Monday to Friday but come Saturday they swapped their overalls for the colours of the big two.

The massive yard cranes no longer dominate the skyline and the workforce at the docks is ten times less than it was in its heyday, but the weekend escape through football is still as strong in Glasgow as it always was.

Vidmar walked through a shopping centre the previous Saturday at the same time as Celtic was playing a critical game against St Johnstone.

Shoppers stopped him constantly, advising him that Celtic was losing and eventually went down 1-0.

With Rangers winning the next day and moving seven points clear with four games left the Blues had breathing space.

The match at Celtic Park on Sunday was a sell-out, Rangers fans only getting 7,500 tickets and Vidmar knew there would be no polite welcome when he hits the turf running.

"There will be 50,000 of them and they will all be screaming," he said.

"Football is life here and they expect you to win every game, they are spoilt for success,"

he said.

"You can just feel the history of this club."

Viduka, who went to Glasgow partly to escape the tensions of being a star in Zagreb, said the pressure on the weekend won't affect him one bit.

He was stalked and abused in the street in Croatia and the home town fans turned against him, probably because of his support for President Franjo Tudjman who suffered a massive slump in popularity.

Nicknamed the Wizard of Oz, Viduka, has been hardened to the swinging moods of crowds.

"It's one of the biggest and oldest derby games in the world, I've heard it's something special but it won't concern me," he said on the run up to the big one.

He feels a bond with the Celtic support and after his much publicised delayed arrival, wants to prove that he has plenty to offer and the mother of all derbies is a perfect setting.

And the game had its own twist for the Aussies foes.

Rangers took the Scottish League soccer title for the 10th time in 11 seasons when they won 3-0 at the home of arch-rival Celtic.

Two goals from Neil McCann after 12 and 76 minutes and a 44th minute penalty from Joerg Albertz gave Rangers the title against Celtic, which ended Rangers' nine-year reign as champions last season.

Celtic finished the match with nine men after having Stephane Mahe and Vidar Riseth sent off while Rangers' Rod Wallace was also shown the red card.

STOP PRESS

Roy Hodgson today said he was tempted by the thought of leading the Australian side, as speculation continued that he would replace fellow Englishman Terry Venables.

Speaking from Italy where he assumed temporary control of European giants Inter Milan, Hodgson said he would relish working with the talent on offer in a top Australian side. He conceded the Australian position was not his only consideration for the future, but he added that money would not be the deciding factor on whether he would be seen in the position.

"The job has appeal, there's no doubt," Hodgson said.

Meanwhile Sydney United' coach Davie Mitchell remains the popular favourite for the job.

Trouble had flared in the first half when referee Hugh Dallas was hit by a coin thrown from the crowd.

He needed four stitches in a gash on his head but resumed.

Celtic fans also ran on to the field and one reportedly fell from an upper tier of one stand.

Celtic's cause was not helped when French defender Mahe was sent off after 32 minutes -- the second time he has been sent off in an "Old Firm" derby.

Rangers English winger Wallace was sent off in the closing minutes after a clash with Celtic's Norwegian forward Vidar Riseth who was sent off a minute later for a foul on Rangers' Australian defender Tony Vidmar.

The victory -- Rangers 100th over Celtic in league clashes -- put them on 72 points -- 10 points more than Celtic with both sides having only three matches left to play.

It was the 48th time Rangers had won the Scottish title.

They have the chance to mark a memorable first season under Dutch coach Dick Advocaat by completing a treble of league, League Cup and FA Cup when they face Celtic in the Cup Final at the newly re-built Hampden Park later this month.

Bozza and Harry getting ready to move

By John Curtis

ASTON Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich looks to have played his last game for the club after being dramatically axed from the squad for the weekend match with Manchester United.

United is reported to be ready to bid for him at the end of the season.

Villa manager John Gregory even refused to let the Australian, who can leave Villa on a free transfer under the

Bosman ruling at the end of the campaign, travel on the team coach.

Gregory is seething at Bosnich's refusal to follow the example of Liverpool's Steve McManaman, who is bound for Real Madrid, in making up his mind over where his future lies before the end of the season.

With only a fortnight left of the current campaign, the Villa chief is in limbo over his plans for next season.

He does not know whether he has to move into the transfer market

for another goalkeeper.

But his patience finally snapped and he has axed Bosnich, bringing former England Under 21 keeper Michael Oakes into the side.

Bosnich was missing from the previous Saturday's win over Nottingham Forest with a foot injury.

Gregory said: "I only want to pick players who are totally committed to Aston Villa."

"With regards to Mark Bosnich, a decision had to be made, and I took it."

"The decision I made

was for the good of the team and the club.

"Last week Michael Oakes gave an excellent performance and kept a clean sheet and I have faith in him and our other goalkeeper Peter Enckelman."

Bosnich was nowhere to be seen when the Villa team coach left for the match.

United and Bosnich have repeatedly denied any deal, but it was understood within the industry that heads of agreement were discussed with Bosnich's agents in

January.

Meanwhile, Australian star Harry Kewell has reportedly asked Leeds United for a get-out clause in his new contract to allow him to move to Europe if any big clubs come calling.

In an interview with the Daily Mail newspaper, Kewell made it clear his ambitions lay in Europe.

"People might think I've already reached the pinnacle of my profession by playing each week for Leeds in the Premier League," the 20-year-old

winger said.

"If that's the case, they'd be wrong. I've had a career plan mapped out in my mind since I was a kid and playing at the highest level in England is only part of it."

"Phase One is now complete, which at the age of 20 is something that I'm pretty proud of."

"Now I've got my eyes fixed on Phase Two, the big leagues in Europe."

Kewell has just signed a new contract giving him three more years at Leeds and The Mail said it believed he had

demanding a get-out clause to allow him to move to Europe.

Leeds have had approaches from Italian Serie A giants Juventus and Roma, but Kewell said he planned to stay at Elland Road and improve his game before he made the big move.

"It's always been a dream of mine to play for a top club in Italy or Spain before returning to England and then finishing my playing days in Australia," he said.

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